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**CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER** 

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THURSDAY JUNE 13, 2019

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# 'Mandate 25-pct. funding'

By ERWIN ENCINARES erwin encinares@saipantribune.com

he Board of Education has given Education Commissioner Glenn Muña the authority to work with the CNMI Legislature on a bill that would mandate the Executive branch to stick to the constitutionally mandated minimum annual appropriation for the Public School System.

In an emergency meeting last Tuesday, the BOE approved board member Phillip Mendiola-Long's recommendation to direct Muña to work with the Legislature in drafting legislation that will require

the Finance secretary to transfer 25 percent of all "general revenue" into a BOE account and require that such funds be transferred every 30 days or, in a declared emergency, ev-

See MANDATE on Page 4

## FEMA to begin building new homes

By JON PEREZ

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Construction activity is expected to increase on the island this month after the contractor tapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency begins the permanent housing construction program

for homes that were destroyed by Super Typhoon Yutu. A total of 225 eligible households plan to avail of the program.

FEMA External Affairs Office representative Todd Hoose told Saipan Tribune that households that were eligible—212 on Saipan and

See FEMA on Page 4

#### PH INDEPENDENCE DAY

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), and Philippine honorary consul Glicerio Arago assist members of the Emon Masonic Lodge No. 179 during the 121st Philippine Independence Day flag-raising at the Kanoa Resort yesterday morning. They later adjourned to the resort's Isla Café for the traditional early-morning breakfast that's usually hosted by the Philippine consulate.

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## Employer wants \$20K of dead worker

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

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An employer, who was appointed as an administrator of the estate of a Filipino worker on Saipan who has already died, wants to inherit bank account.

The deceased, Eduardo Ocampo David, reportedly has no family and died last year without a will.

In an order on Tuesday, however, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho expressed concern the worker's \$20,794 in a since an employer is not an out the details of the CNMI Committee has already started wants to be on the conserva-

## 'Austerity could extend to next fiscal year'

By JON PEREZ

jon\_perez@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The House of Representatives committee that is hammering See EMPLOYER on Page 4 government's next fiscal year the budget process, summontive side when it comes to the

budget wants to err on the side of caution and come out with a final product that's conservative.

ing top officials to public hearings in order to go over the revenue pie.

Committee chair Ivan A. The House Ways and Means Blanco (R-Saipan) said he

## **RELATED NEWS**

Hunter issues a call to action at MHS graduation. PAGE 5

CNMI government's budget for the fiscal year 2020.

Already, the CNMI bud-See AUSTERITY on Page 4

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The 2019 Miss Marianas pageant happens this Saturday, June 15, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa.

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#### ASIA

Thousands of protesters blocked entry to Hong Kong's government headquarters.

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## LIFE & STYLE

Jon Stewart scolds Congress for failing to ensure funding for a 9/11 victims' compensation fund.

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## Local

## Filipinos in CNMI celebrate 121st PH Independence Day

By MARC VENUS

marc\_venus@saipantribune.com REPORTER

CNMI government officials joined the Filipino community, led by Philippine honorary consul Glicerio Arago, at the Kanoa Resort parking lot early yesterday morning for the traditional flag-raising ceremony that signals the commemoration of the 121st Philippine Independence Day.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) were joined at the morning flag-raising by Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, Sen. Vinnie F. Sablan (Ind-Saipan), House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan), Rep. Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan), Rep. Luis John DLG Castro (R-Saipan), Rep. John Paul P. Sablan (R-Saipan), Rep. Richard T. Lizama (R-Saipan), Rep. Christina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), and Rep. Sheila J. Babauta (Ind-Saipan).

Members of the Emon Masonic Lodge No. 179 installed the Philippine flag on the Kanoa Resort flagpole. Torres and Delegate Gregorio Sablan assisted with raising the flag.



MARC VENUS

Members of the Emon Masonic Lodge No. 179 pose for a picture with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) yesterday morning after the 121st Philippine Independence Day flag-raising at the Kanoa Resort parking area.

Most of the men present wore traditional Philippine attire, *barong Tagalog*, while the women were in traditional *terno*.

Another highlight of the flag-raising ceremony was the singing of the Philippine national anthem, which was

done by Kenneth Codog.

"I feel so honored to present the national anthem because it is a very important

symbolic song for our [country]," said Codog.

In his remarks, Delegate Gregorio Sablan highlighted the importance of the relationship between the people of the CNMI and the Filipino people.

"My friends, you are as much a part of this community as I am, and all your hard work is what makes us what we are today," he said.

The year's Philippine Independence Day's theme is "Kalayaan 2019: Tapang ng Bayan, Malasakit na Mamayaman (Independence Day 2019: Courage of the Nation, Compassion for the People)."

In his closing remarks, Arago thanked the CNMI for keeping the relationship between the people of the CNMI and the Philippines "stronger than ever."

"We show our gratitude... and we will continue to work together for the common good," said Arago.

Messages from Philippine President Rodrigo E. Dutuerte, Philippine consul general Marciano de Borja, and Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin, Jr. were also read at yesterday's ceremony.

The Philippines declared independence from Spain on June 12, 1898.



SOME CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY. NOT APPLICABLE ON ANY ON-GOING PROMOTIONS.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is inviting the public to attend a presentation on the CNMI's current financial status as a continuation of the ongoing public outreach on the financial and economic issues facing the Commonwealth following the devastating effects of Super Typhoon Yutu.

Interested members of the public are invited to view

## Pohnpei readies for arrival of 2 new traditional sailing canoes



Okeanos Palau and Okeanos Waa'qab are escorted by Okeanos Vanuatu from Port-Vila to Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu to resupply their vessel's coconut biofuel. When winds are low, the coconut oil-powered engines can keep the *vakas* cruising up to 6 knots.

Pacific voyagers from several countries are expected to sail into Pohnpei this June on two newly-built traditional, fossil fuel-free sailing canoes, Okeanos Palau and Okeanos Waa'qab, joining their sister, Okeanos Pohnpei, that is currently operating out of Kolonia.

The Pohnpei arrival marks the second nation visit in the maiden voyages of the Okeanos vaka motus whose crew trained for three months at the Okeanos Maritime Training Center in Auckland. New Zealand, in preparation for their 4,000-mile sail to their North Pacific destinations.

Among the crew are sailors from Pohnpei, Chuuk, Palau, Fiji, Cook Islands and Hawaii.

Leading the voyages of Okeanos Palau and Okeanos Waa'qab is Okeanos' fleet commander and master navigator Peia Patai, who also oversees the Okeanos Maritime Training Center. The 50foot vaka motu, or "boat for the islands," is a double-hulled, Pacific sailing canoe designed to run solely on renewable resources: wind, solar energy and coconut biofuel.

From Auckland, the fleet briefly stopped in Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu, to refill their engines with locally sourced coconut oil—a feature that provides an exciting and sustainable solution for many fossil fuel-dependent countries in Micronesia.

servicing Pohnpei's outer islands since November 2018.

Okeanos Pohnpei has offered numerous services to the outer island communities. from unprecedented beach sweeps in Pakin to medical relief trips in the southern islands that will continue to be fulfilled with the introduction of these two canoes in Micro-

nesian waters.

Okeanos Pohnpei and her fully trained Micronesian crew came to Kolonia at the request of Gov. Marcelo Peterson who sought to provide more regular sea transportation to Pohnpei's outer island communities.

"The need for transportation to our outer islands is huge. This vessel can provide year-round service to our outer island communities," Peterson said when Okeanos Pohnpei arrived in November 2018.

Tony John, the captain of Okeanos Pohnpei, is returning after three months of professional sailing training at the Okeanos Maritime Training program in Auckland.

"During this voyage I learned traditional sailing,' said John. "I want my country to have traditional and sustainable transportation." The new vakas, Okeanos Palau and Okeanos Waa'qab, will sail a total of over 4,000 miles to Palau and Yap, respectively, where they will serve the sustainable sea transportation goals of their countries and states. The countries of Palau and FSM have been Okeanos Pohnpei, has been working on a proposal for traditionally-based sustainable sea transportation. (PR)



Okeanos Pohnpei, formerly known as Okeanos Messenger, provides Micronesia with a sustainable alternative to the diesel-powered vessels that strains local economies

## Learn more about the CNMI's financial situation

presentations from the CNMI Department of Finance and the Office of Management and Budget on the necessary decisions made to curtail spending, while providing critical public services for the community.

Presentations will be held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center on Thursday. June 20, 2019 at 5:30pm.

Torres noted that the outreach presentations will further clarify the CNMI's current economic and financial state.

"This is a hard time for our people. The effects of the typhoon on the regular operations of our government have been devastating and complex," he said. "It is important that we all truly understand the challenges we face, so that we can face them together on our road to recovery."

While the administration has made every effort to effectively inform the Legislature and government employees through reports, economic data, and meetings with Finance and OMB, Torres understands that easing the community's concerns about the government's finances is important in resolving this crisis.

"It is important to me that even in the rush of decisions that need to be made to ensure that our people are safe and secure, our community needs the full story, and we are more than happy to discuss everything that needs to be known about our finances. The decisions we have had to make and the conversations we have had with department heads and other community leaders are necessary because our economy is fragile, and one event like a natural disaster leads to one thing and can affect the lives of everyone who call these islands home."

"With our elected leaders and government officials, we have taken action across the board from the central government, to Northern Marianas College, the Legislature, the Judiciary, and our Public School System to get us back on track. Lt. Gov. [Arnold I.] Palacios and I thank all of you truly for making sacrifices. Your efforts won't go unnoticed, and we promise you that we will get through this together. Now, more than ever, is the time to regroup and rebuild a stronger and more sustainable economy and community for the Marianas." (PR)









## TRIPLEJ MAZDA





## Austerity affects BMV licensing

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA Kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The recent government-wide austerity measures are reportedly affecting the licensing services provided by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

In an interview with Department of Public Safety spokesperson Adrian Pangelinan, the BMV will not provide services on "auster-

for 2019 will be short of \$29.9

million—a total reduction of

The administration's origi-

nal estimated revenues for fis-

cal year 2019 was at \$258.14

million but, after dismal col-

lections in the first two quar-

ters of the year, the govern-

ment's revised budget is now

Blanco said the projec-

tions for the previous quarter

were not expected and it's

not yet known what would

happen in the final quarter of

**AUSTERITY** 

From Page 1

11.6 percent.

ity Fridays" or government payday Fridays because they will be closed.

Contrary to rumors, however, BMV will still issue driver's licenses to new applicants and renewals. But the bureau will only be providing these services, among others, on weekdays and every other Friday.

Despite the austerity measure, though, "we will not

"We don't know if we're

able to collect what we pro-

jected for the fourth quarter,"

he said. "It is good to be opti-

mistic but it is also good to be

realistic. I would rather be on

they are not, then what steps

can we continue to take? ...

Because of the new fiscal

year, are we going to start hir-

ing again? Are we going to

be spending more money?

I don't think so. I think the

cost-containment measures

that we're having this time

[since FY 2019], we can car-

ry it over to FY 2020.'

"Are the numbers real? If

the conservative side.

this fiscal year.

stop distributing licenses for the community," Pangelinan said.

Those who are renewing their license may only renew them 30 days before the expiration date, no earlier.

"Before, BMV would allow renewal for three or even six months before the license expiration. Now, you have to renew 30 days before or on the day of expiration. We are, however, encouraging two weeks before the expiration,"

Blanco said he is also waiting

for any report or update from his

counterpart at the Senate, Fiscal

Affairs Committee chair Sen.

Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tin-

ian). "There are no discussions

yet with Sen. Hofschneider. I

don't know what their other

are going to share with the

Ways and Means what they

have done. ...It is good that

whether the projections for

fiscal year 2020 are realistic."

credit that the administration

has asked the Marianas Public

Land Trust will be a big help.

Blanco added the line of

questioned

"But I'm pretty sure they

concerns are.'

[Hofschneider]

Pangelinan also said that although there are austerity measures in place, the bureau has not raised the prices for license fees; they all remain the same at \$50 for a three-year duration.

Pangelinan said that BMV is just complying with the recently implemented work hour cut.

According to Saipan Tribune archives, under the new work hour cuts, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres reduced the operations of offices under the Ex-

"We encouraged them [MPLT board] to fully review what the requirements are, and also to consider the needs of government. The bulk of [retirees] are [of Northern Marianas de-

that is the issue that they are

scent] and they will be the recipient of it." 'We understand that the MPLT money, when it is disbursed, is not for operation; so the attorney general and MPLT's legal counsel are looking [whether] the Settlement Fund and bonds would

fall into operations. We don't know what their conclusions would be, but I think

working on."

## **EMPLOYER**

at \$141.50 million.

From Page 1

heir of the decedent when there is no will that expressly states that such employer will get an inheritance upon a person's death.

Camacho ordered the employer/administrator, Juan A. Gacayan, to appear in court at a status conference on June 20 at 9am and explain how a nonfamily individual can inherit money from a decedent without a will.

David, 60, who hails from Pampanga, the Philippines, died on Oct. 15, 2018, at the Commonwealth Health Center. His cause of death was not indicated in court documents. The length of his stay on the islands was also not specified.

Three days after David died, Gacayan, through coun-

sel Rosemond B. Santos, asked the court to appoint him as the administrator of David's estate.

Santos said that David, who has never been married and has no children, died without leaving any will.

Santos said Gacayan is the employer and family friend

Santos said David has money in his savings account at the Bank of Guam, but at the time Gacayan was unaware of the savings account.

Gacayan is also unaware of any debts left unpaid by David. The job title of David was not specified in court papers.

Last Dec. 20, Camacho heard Gacayan's petition for his appointment as administrator of David's estate. The judge granted the petition.

Last Jan. 16, Gacayan, through Santos, filed in court an inventory of the estate, indicating that David's Bank of Guam ledger has a savings account in the amount of \$20,794.

Santos said David died without any debts.

Last March 19, Santos filed a motion to withdraw as counsel for Gacayan; she did not state the reason for her withdrawal. Camacho granted the withdrawal last March 22.

Last April 16, Gacayan filed a petition for decree of final distribution; he did so without a lawyer.

Gacayan told the court that, consistent with David's prior instructions, he should get David's \$20,794.

At the May 16 hearing on the petition for decree of final distribution, Gacayan appeared without counsel and was accompanied by Juan Cabrera, also known as

Bobo, who claimed to be a consultant.

Camacho told Gacayan to follow up with the bank and the matter was taken offcalendar.

Last May 21, Gacayan submitted to the court a document asking the court to sign and certify it, in effect granting him access to David's bank account.

The judge, however, did not sign it as he has concerns, noting that, by Gacayan's own admission. David does not have any spouse or children.

Camacho said there is no will, or other documentation that David wanted his property or bank savings to go to Gacayan.

Camacho said that, based on Gacayan's own representation in court, he was the employer for David.

"...Each home that they start [building] cannot [take] over 120 days. Which means they really need to get to work to get

Hoose said they would bring in another contractor to check the construction work to make sure the houses are up to specific building codes and could withstand typhoons. "You might get a crappy job if you don't check what they have done. So we will have another set of contractors be-

them with the repairs.

ecutive Branch, starting with the pay period on June 23. Agencies will be closed every payday Friday beginning on July 5 until further notice.

The other branches of the

CNMI government also experienced reduction in their budgets.

The government also froze all salary increases and hiring of additional personnel.

## 25 take oath as new US citizens

Twenty-five persons took their oaths yesterday as new U.S. citizens during a naturalization ceremony.

The ceremony was held at the U.S. District Court for the NMI in conjunction with the commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of World War II.

Author and TanHoldings Corp. consultant David Mangarero Sablan served as the guest speaker. He recounted his difficult experience as a child on Saipan during the war.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona presided over the ceremony for the 25 new citizens who are originally from the Philippines, Japan, South Korea, China, and Russia.

Among those who became new U.S. citizens are Filipino couple Ramir Castro Deleon

and Marivic Mendoza Deleon Leon, as well as Marivic Deleon's stepmother, Marilyn Oronce Mendoza.

The other new citizens are Saint Michael Barriga Achas, Geraldine Avinon Cabrera, Ronaldo Plazo Catap, Edel Garcia Cudia, Minda Doronila Cullen, Remedios Salenga Cruz, Francisca Isla Delos Reyes, Natalya Deryabina, Roberto Jaurigue Guevarra, Joel Mallari Javier, and Gil Jin Lee.

The others are Conrado Tayag Libut, Joji Napoli Arenas Libut, Eden Arellano Mercado, Jennet Cayubit Navarro, Cecilio Agustin Pagarigan, Felicidad Pijaro Pagarigan, Kimi Saito Reyes, Yingshi Jin Romolor, Jung Soon Park Sablan, Honesto Saquilayan Servida, and Eduardo Reyes Taruc. (Ferdie de la Torre)

## **MANDATE**

From Page 1

ery biweekly payday.

"The issue is to ensure that we have a good idea of what the 25 percent is and to require the secretary of Finance to immediately impound 25 percent of the funds so that we have a daily tracking of what that account balance is," Mendiola-Long said, explaining the rationale behind his motion.

The 25 percent he is referring to is the constitutionallymandated appropriation for PSS that it should get at least 25 percent of the CNMI's 'general revenue."

A certified question has already been submitted to the CNMI Supreme Court to clarify whether "general revenue" refers to all government revenue before setting aside annual earmarks.

Mendiola-Long noted that he proposed this motion to give Muña the flexibility to adjust based on the funds available in the new PSS account, as well as require the drawdown within two weeks.

"...At this point we are not protected by law and we are also not protected because of the vagueness in which the [CNMI] Constitution dictates when we receive those funds," he said. "Because we aren't the only kid on the block asking for money at this point, I want to ask the Legislature to protect the education system by crafting legislation."

The BOE lawyer opined that the legislation, as Mendiola-Long wants it worded, is "hard to draft in a way that would work" because it tracks the language of the CNMI Constitution, which is unclear. However, by having the Leg-

islature ultimately decide to identify from what pool of money PSS gets the 25 percent—whether before or after annual earmarks-it could also give the Legislature leeway to appropriate funding for specific PSS programs.

"...At this point, I would much rather put [the Legislature] on notice of what we need and tell us what they can afford," he added.

The motion ultimately obtained unanimous support. The legislation has yet to be written as the BOE adjourned Tuesday afternoon.

"I don't mean to pass the buck to the Legislature. I am just trying to put the roles and responsibilities where it belongs," Mendiola-Long said, adding that the BOE does not have the power of the purse to appropriate money. "If I had the power to do it, I would have no problem doing it... If this board is asked to do something difficult, we do it. At this point, I am saying we have no more tools."

On the chance that the Legislature refuses to act on the bill or fill it with amendments, Mendiola-Long noted that it would be the Legislature that would be accountable to the public.

"Our hands are tied and we are pushed against the wall. What are we going to do?" added BOE Saipan representative Andrew Orsini during discussions. "...I wish we could control [funds] but that is beyond our authority."

"I agree with Orsini. We need to make it more convincing. We have to have more findings in [the bill]," BOE Saipan representative Marylou Ada said. "[We need more findings] to allow the Legislature to remit and separate funds."

## **FEMA**

From Page 1

13 on Tinian—will have a brand new concrete house that would either have one, two, or three bedrooms and a water catchment system.

"They [contractors] will demolish the old facility. Clear it to build a new one," he said. "These households said that they want us to come in and build them a brand-new house. I'm anticipating this program to start, because the contractors are already on the ground. We're already negotiating the prices and working with them. They are here on Saipan and they are going to start flying their people soon."

He said the contractor is a

company based in the U.S. mainland. "But, in our contract, we asked them to use some of the materials that we already have here as long as it meets code. And also, to subcontract whatever we have here locally

"If we come in and use only the local labor...it will drive the prices here crazy. We have them coming in and subcontracting locally...and the rest they are flying in—from Guam, Hawaii, and the U.S. mainland."

Hoose assured, though, that the contractor is also going to hire locally.

"Because it is also to their advantage financially. We've encouraged them to subcontract whatever they can. It is a delicate balance for us not to reduce [local] labor availability for the individuals who are trying to do their own recovery.

"They are going to work on 20 or 30 or 40 houses at the same time. They are going to start on a few then 20. There's going to be...40 or 60 homes that would be in construction all at the same time."

He added that it is also in the contract that the project won't last over 120 days, since the family living in the house could be asked to move out once construction begins and they would need a place to stay. "These families will have another hardship after Yutu. because some of them need to move out. They will need to stay somewhere for 30 or up to 120 days," he said.

the houses complete," he added.

hind them."

There were also 478 eligible households that got over \$8,000 in repair money; some had already done the repairs in their homes or did not want to wat for FEMA, while others have relatives that helped

## Hunter issues a call to action at MHS graduation



Glen Hunter delivers the keynote address for the MHS Class of 2019 graduation.

By REICA RAMIREZ

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the Torres administration, who was the keynote speaker at the Marianas High School Class of 2019 graduation, urged the CNMI community to demand answers from the administration.

"We must hold our leaders accountable. We must ask the tough questions. We must demand answers," said Hunter in his keynote speech.

Hunter, who owns The Shack Saipan, Airstream Cafe, and GoHydro LLC, encouraged the graduating class of

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WINNERS HARDWARE

and "prioritize spending." He accused them of widespread corruption that benefits their political self-interests. "They say we get the gov-

have failed to "plan properly"

ernment we deserve. I believe we deserve so much more than what we have had in recent history and what we have today," Hunter said. He blames the government for spending more money than it takes in, saying this is the cause of the CNMI's economic quagmire.

Hunter challenged the graduates, the community, and

the government, against political pressure, and to exercise their public voice.

"We need [to be] willing to tell the government that we will not be intimidated. We will not be silent. ... It is all very possible. You have so much power," Hunter added.

He also encouraged people to do their own research, read, ask questions, and demand answers—to exercise their "power as active citizens to better these islands."

Hunter expressed himelf more inviting."

business owners to stand up to stunned by the lack of graduates willing to come back to the CNMI in 10 years. He believes that his generation and the generations before him were tasked to create a "better place" the future generation could call home and return to it. "Yet 80 percent of you on stage don't envision yourself living here 10 years from now...We talk about the fact that so many of our youth leave and never return after graduating. Yet we have done so little to make these islands

Hunter explained that he was not speaking out of hatred or anger, but because of his love for the islands and his hope for the next generation.

"I realize now that I can't ask you to be active citizens, vou already are. I ask vou instead to build on that and to continue to be active citizens," he added.

Administration supporters have taken to social media to criticize Hunter's comments, mostly saying the speech was inappropriate for a graduation ceremony.

MHS to become active citi-

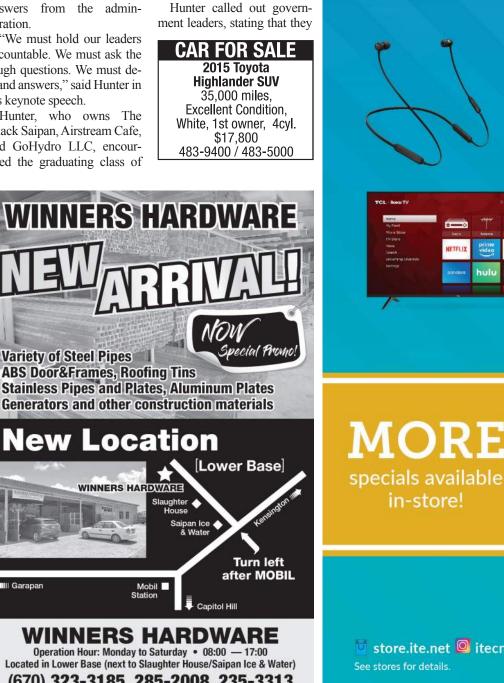
He talked about recent is-Glen Hunter, a vocal critic of sues in the community such as austerity measures and public corruption, about the "hemorrhaging" healthcare

system, infrastructure, and school system.

zens in the community.

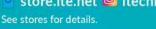
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## Miss Marianas set for Saturday

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Preparations for the 2019 Miss Marianas pageant are complete for its kick-off on Saturday, June 15, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall, with the winner to bring home valuable prizes.

The pageant's organizer, Stellar Marianas, presented the six candidates and the pageant's sponsors yesterday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's World Café

We have been working hard in the past few months in getting every detail together and we are really excited for the show," said Stellar Marianas president Laila Boyer.

The pageant contestants are Junalyn Billedo, Riane Capalad, Merly-Ann Fernandez, Sharon Palacios, Shannon Sasamoto, and Dierra Palacios.

"I am so excited and looking forward to Saturday, and I would like to thank my

friends, family, and all the sponsors," Capalad said.

Celine Cabrera, the 2018 Miss Marianas, is also excited to pass on her tiara to the next Miss Marianas. Becoming the 2018 Miss Marianas was a dream come true for Cabrera and she is happy about this new group of girls' hard work and efforts for this pageant, as they get to experience what she experienced in her run last year.

"The sweet part about this is the fact that whoever wins this event deserves the title of Miss Marianas," Cabrera said.

This year's queen will get the opportunity to drive around with the 2019 Miss Marianas official car, a 2019 sporty red Hyundai Kona. The queen will also get a one-year subscription to Marianas Variety, exclusive beauty products from DFS Saipan, gifts from Tribe Marianas, an exclusive product gift from TRES'emme, a gift bag and a cash gift from

670 Rock Steady Shop, a professional model portfolio from MyCapitures Photography, a four-piece luggage set from Stellar Marianas, a wardrobe set and gifts from Pena House and Iridescent Boutique, and gifts from Pacifica Insurance.

This year's sponsors are IT&E, TanHoldings Corp., Triple J Motors, Joeten Enterprises, Lady Diann Torres Foundation, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Cha Bistro, Hertz Rent-a-Car, Jules Guam, the CNMI Public School System, Burger, Magliari, & Magliari.

Stellar Marianas said there is strong support for the pageant in the community, with tickets sold out just days after their release.

Ticket holders are reminded that doors will be open at 4:30pm on Saturday. Parking is also available at the American Memorial Park. A shuttle provided by Fiesta Resort will be available from AMP to Fiesta from 4pm to 6pm.



2018 Miss Marianas Celine Cabrera, center, joins the contestants of the 2019 Miss Marianas pageant with the sponsors of the event during the Stellar Marianas sponsor presentation at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan yesterday.

## DCS to kick off its summer fun water series this Father's Day

Dolphin Club Saipan will kick off its annual Summer Fun Open Water Series with a 2.5-kilometer Father's Day Sunrise Wreck Swim on Sunday, June 16, 2019, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, in front of its Skipper's Bar.

Registration starts at 5pm. In addition to on-site registration, interested participants may register online at bit.ly/ fdwreckswim.

The Summer Fun OWS offers four more swims, two being qualifiers for the 7.25k Eagle Ray swim.

Paupau Triangle offers three swim distances: 50m, 1.5k, and the Eagle Ray qualifier, 3.5k. The swim begins at Paupau Beach with registration at 7am and start time at 8am on 13, 2019. This fun night swim July 6, 2019.

The Paupau to Tanapag swim is another 3.5k Eagle Ray qualifier scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 3, 2019. Registration begins on Paupau Beach at 6:45am, with start time at 7:30am.

The biggest swim, Eagle Ray, is a 7.25k swim from Paupau Beach to Managaha. Eagle is set for Saturday, Sept.14, 2019, with registration at 5:45am and start time at 6:40am. This swim requires each swimmer to have an approved kayaker as a safety escort to Managaha.

The Summer Fun OWS ends with the Halloween Hunter Moon Swim on Oct.

offers a .5k or 1k route at the Guma Sakman. Registration begins at 6:45pm and start time at 7:30pm.

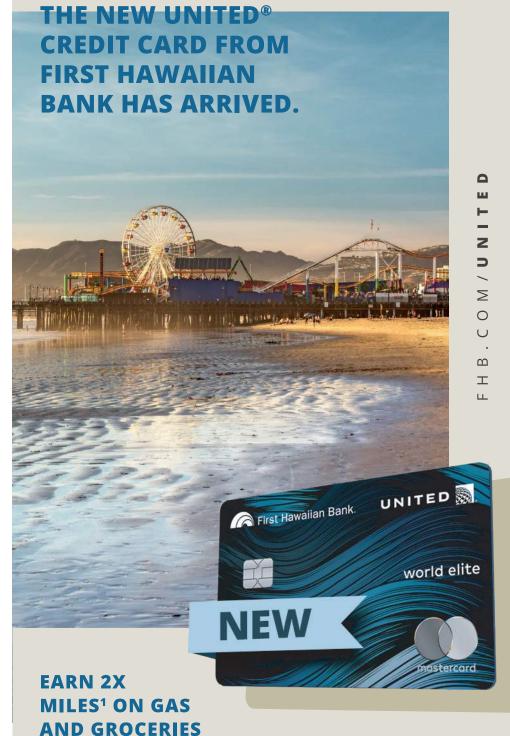
All swims have a registration fee of \$20 for non-DCS members, \$10 for DCS members, and free for lifeguards with proof of certification.

Dolphin Club Saipan is the swim program of 500 Sails that offers free lessons for adults. Lessons are on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday mornings at 6am.

To learn more about 500 visit http:// Sails, www.500sails.org or follow it on Facebook at @500Sails. For more information, email at info@500sails.org. (PR)







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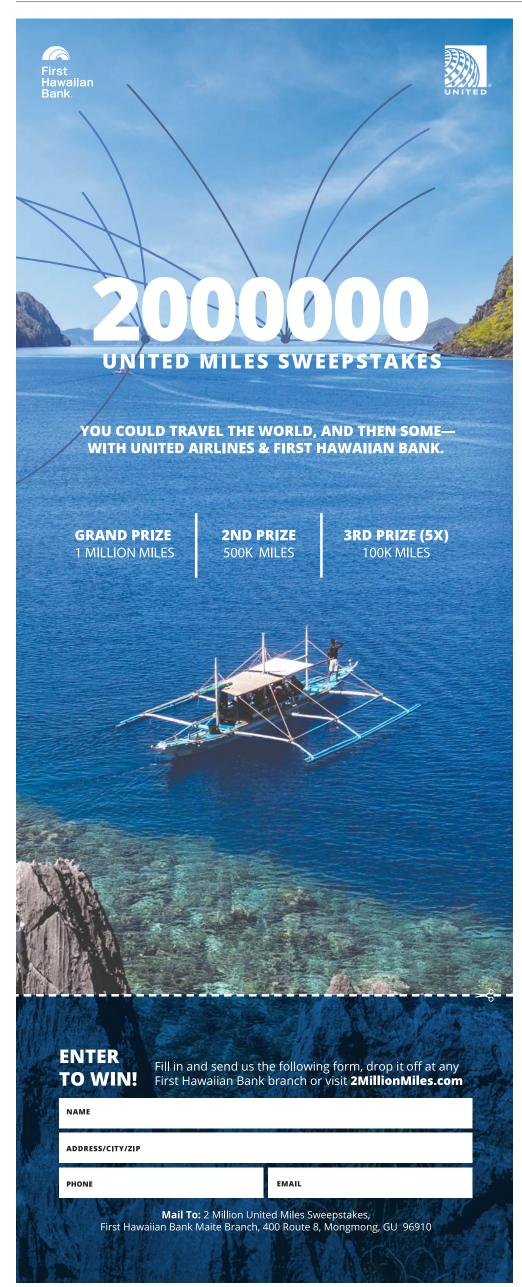
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## CNMI ranks low in report on review of LGBT laws, policies in territories

The Movement Advancement Project, in partnership with Lambda Legal, released yesterday a new report focused on the status of LGBT equality for the more than 3.5 million residents of American Samoa, the CNMI, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

MAP classifies various laws and policies that impact lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people into two broad categories: sexual orientation-related laws and policies, and gender identity-related laws and policies. Examined together, these polices are combined to calculate an "Overall Policy Tally."

Of the five territories, Puerto Rico has the highest overall LGBT policy tally (21.75 out of a potential 40.5) as well as the highest sexual orientation policy tally (11.5/20) and gender identity policy tally (10.25/20.5). Based on its LG-BT-related laws and policies, Puerto Rico has a similar overall LGBT policy tally as Delaware and Maine.

The Northern Mariana Islands is ranked with Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and American Samoa as having a "low" LGBT policy tally. American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands fall between North Dakota, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and South Carolina (0.5/40.5), while the U.S. Virgin Islands (5.5/40.5) falls between Arizona and Kentucky. Guam (7/40.5) falls between

Kentucky and Indiana.

Guam has a "medium" sexual orientation policy tally identical to that of Pennsylvania and Michigan, while the other three territories have "low" sexual orientation policy tallies. Notably, both Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands have "negative" gender identity policy tallies similar to Arizona and Alabama, respectively. American Samoa and the U.S. Virgin Islands have "low" gender identity policy tallies.

In addition, report looks at seven broad categories including relationship and parental recognition, non-discrimination laws, LGBT youth laws and policies, healthcare laws and policies, criminal justice laws, and accurate identity documents. Within these categories, the report reviews the more than 39 laws and policies that impact LGBT people and their families. Key findings include:

- Guam has the highest relationship recognition policy tally of the five territories because of their family and medical leave law that permits leave for a child for whom a parent is standing in loco parentis.
- Both Puerto Rico and Guam have nondiscrimination protections in employment for sexual orientation and gender identity. Puerto Rico also has advanced healthcare nondiscrimination laws and policies prohibiting discrimination

based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and HIV status.

Earlier this year, the governor of Puerto Rico signed an executive order banning conversion therapy by licensed medical professionals. Puerto Rico also has a "Students' Bill of Rights" that ensures equal access to education regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity.

■ Both Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands have hate crime laws that enumerate sexual orientation and gender identity. All five territories are covered by the federal hate crime law, which explicitly enumerates sexual orientation and gender identity. Notably, however, both Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands have harmful HIV criminalization statutes.

■ Only Puerto Rico has taken proactive steps to update policies and procedures for allowing transgender people to update identity documents.

For more than 10 years, MAP has tracked state-level LGBT laws and policies across the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

With the release of this report, called, "LGBT Policy Spotlight: LGBT Equality in the U.S. Territories," MAP is now actively tracking LGBT-related laws and policies in the five populated U.S. territories.

The Equality Maps can be found at http://www.lgbtmap. org/equality-maps. (Saipan Tribune/From a press release)

## NMI Museum launches WWII exhibit

By MARC VENUS

marc\_venus@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The NMI Museum of History and Culture unveiled Tuesday a multimedia exhibit that celebrates the 75th anniversary of the Battles of Saipan and Tinian.

The exhibition—a collaboration between the Northern Marianas Humanities Council and researcher Alexander Astroth—shows previously classified World War II pictures and footage from combat cameramen who took photographs and collected footage on the battlefields. The pictures were in laboratories in Hawaii and the U.S. mainland and were kept in boxes that were marked "secrets." After the '80s, the military was required to hand over the images and footage to the National Archives and Research Administration or NARA.

"Over time, Astroth was able to get a hold of the images and was contacting people through email in the Marianas and it happened to be brought to me from Don Farrell, so it just happened to come to the council," Humanities Council program



MARC VEN r Farah Vo

Northern Marianas Humanities Council program officer Farah Younis, left, delivers a speech for the audience with researcher Alexander Astroth, right, during the opening of 75th Anniversaries of the Battle of Saipan and Tinian Multimedia Exhibit at the NMI Museum of History and Culture yesterday.

officer Farah Younis said.

"This event is in honor our families who perished in the war," said Peter Camacho, who is chairman of the 75th Anniversaries of the Battle of Saipan and Tinian Committee.

Starting today, the NMI Museum of History and Culture will be displaying the photographs, while the American Memorial Park will have

the footage and the documentaries of elders telling their World War II stories.

The council acknowledged the work of Astroth, the professors at the University of Guam, Carlos Madrid, David Atienza, Boyd Dixon, Mike Carson, and Don Farrell on the exhibit.

The battles of Saipan and Tinian occurred in 1944.



The Top 10 graduates of Marianas High School pose for a photo.

## Podziewski leads MHS' Class of 2019

**By REICA RAMIREZ** reicairamirez@amail.com CORRESPONDENT

After more than a two-hourlong open-air commencement exercise, a total of 322 members of Marianas High School's Class of 2019 received their diplomas last Tuesday at the

school's grounds.

The class valedictorian, Dai Podziewski, urged his fellow graduates in his speech to "dream the dream...take [the] risks and embrace the challenge.'

He also reminded his fellow graduates how special and talented they are. "We are artists, athletes, fishermen, dancers, musicians, scientists, mathematicians, photographers, videographers, debaters, public speakers, actors, writers, and designers. We're special and



DAI PODZIEWSKI Board of Education Award Valedictorian

we're alive here in this moment together."

Podziewski skillfully balanced academics, athletics, community service, and leadership roles throughout high school. He hopes that feat will make him a role model to younger student athletes.



**COLE CHAMBERS** 

Commissioner's Award Salutatorian

"Just because they are an athlete doesn't mean that they can't excel in academics," he said in a later interview with Saipan Tribune.

He feels pride and honor at being named the valedictorian because he believes it caps all his hard work throughout high school.

Podziewski will pursue a major in journalism at Suffolk University in Boston, Massachusetts. Additionally, he will be playing NCAA Division III Men's Soccer for the university.

Class salutatorian Cole Chambers reminded his fellow graduates to "remember the people that have helped and supported us along the way" and is grateful that he spent his four years of high school at MHS. "It is you, the students

and the faculty, that turned this school into a second family, supporting everyone along the way. I couldn't have been happier with how these last four vears turned out."

Chambers will pursue a major in civil engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Podziewski also received the Board of Education Award, while Chambers received the Commissioner of Education Award.

Pionnah Rosej Gregorio

received the Service Recognition award. Mozelle Campo received the Governor's Leadership award. Soledad Cecilia Camacho received the Principal's Award.

The top 10 highest honors were Podziewski, Chambers, Jonah Pohl, Marielle Anne Sambilay, Nicole Ira Mascarinas, Ruoxiang John Lu, Ian Rei Cataluna, Gaeun Yang, Mimi Sakano, and Lourdes Nicole Ocaya. An honorable mention was given to Charissa Lou Parco.

## **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

#### Free family movie nights this summer

This summer, Saipan Vegas invites the community to join them for free Outdoor Family Movie Night with free popcorn and drinks every Friday at the Saipan Vegas Golf Course for the school holidays.

The launch of the movie night will be this Friday, June 14, from 6pm to 9pm. The event will feature an entertainment at 6:30pm by Saipan Studio 29:11 Dance Group and a magic performance by Neil Fama before the screening of the *Aquaman* movie at 7pm.

"We are aware that many families [on] Saipan are still having a tough time since [Super] Typhoon Yutu, and these are trying times for many, so we would like to give families [on] Saipan a chance to have fun family night together," said Gus Noble, MP Holdings consultant.

Movie nights are open to all ages and they should bring their own chairs or mats. (PR)

Chapter invites the public to its general membership meeting on June 20, 2019, at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's beginning at 11am. The meeting will feature

Management-NMI

source

University of Guam's Dr. John Rivera discussing emotional intelligence in the workplace.

The presentation includes Giovanni's lunch buffet at the cost of \$20 for SHRM members and \$30 for nonmembers. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Penny Jones by e-mail penelope.jones@hyatt. com or Denise Montenegro at denise.montenegro@hyatt. com or by telephone at 323-5867/68. **(PR)** 

#### Free probate workshop on Carolinian inheritance

Micronesian Legal Services Corporation will be presenting Probate Workshop #6 on Refaluwasch/Carolinian inheritance on Thursday, June 13, 2019, at 3pm, at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. The workshop is open to the public and free of charge. Materials will be distributed. For more information call the MLSC Marianas office at 234-7729. (PR)

#### **SHRM** meeting to tackle EQ in the workplace

The Society for Human Re-

#### **Weightlifting contest** moved to July 27

The 2019 CNMI Weightlifting Championship has been rescheduled and will be held on July 27, a Saturday, at the Minachom Attao pavilion in Susupe, starting at 10am.

Registration deadline is noon of June 25, 2019, to be delivered to Greg Borja or Jeanne Rayphand at the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc. office in Gualo Rai. Entry fee is \$10, while the admission fee is \$5

For more information, contact Borja at 787 6642 or Rayphand at 287-9807. (PR)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814 Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net | Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net



Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board on Thursday, June 13, 2019 at 8am on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the BPL/HCPLB Conference Room, Capitol Hill

#### **AGENDA**

- Meeting Call to Order
- Determination of Ouorum
- Review and Adoption of Agenda Review and Adoption of Minutes (05/13/19)
- Public Comments
- V. VI. VII. Chairperson's Report Director's Report

VIII.

- Physician Residency Application
  Denial Letter to applicant (S.Seno-Dental Hygiene)
  Hearing Officer for Pending Case # 19-001
- Investigator's Report
- Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature A. Governor's ( Board Term (Dr. Warren L. Creed)
  - 72 Hour Work Schedule (Austerity)
- B. Legislature
- Old Business
  - Propose Clinical Psychologist and Substance Abuse Counselors Regulations
  - Propose Language for Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy Regulation (§ 140-50.3-2615)
- XII.
  - Pending Applications for Board's Review
    A. New Applications

     J.Danan (Radiologic Technologist)
    - . G Dimitris (Physician)
    - Renewal Applications Hold for Discussions
- Miscellaneous Business Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with
- Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
- Next Meeting Date
- A. Next Meeting B.
   Adjournment of Meeting
- Theodore R. Parker, R.Ph., MPH Chairman

#### COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055 Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 - Fax (670) 234-5962 E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

## **AMENDED REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

Procurement and Installation of a Rotating Beacon Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport Project No. CPA-SA-006-19

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies to remove and dispose of existing rotating beacon and procure and install a brand-new rotating beacon, climbing device, basket, etc. at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Proposals are to include procurement, installation and testing of the new beacon with a 1-year warranty and an additional 1-year preventive maintenance services.

The RFP package including the scope of work (SOW) and appendices are available for pick up at no charge at the CPA Administration Office. Project approach and cost must be within the parameters of the established SOW. Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeded what is required by the SOW, will be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror's proposal package. Proposal submission requirements and contract details are outlined in

A site inspection will be conducted on *Monday, June 17, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.* in order to assess the condition and area and determine equipment and materials needed for the installation. Prospective proposers can meet the Saipan Airport Manager, Mr. William Camacho, at the

All proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director. Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than 5:00 p.m., MONDAY, JULY 8, 2019.

Questions and inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals must be submitted in writing and may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to the Saipan Airport Manager, Mr. William Camacho, at bcamacho@cpa.gov.mp.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO **CPA Executive Directo** 

June 12, 2019

## 'We can't let this challenge define our future'

beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com CORRESPONDENT

It is graduation season in the CNMI; at the same time, the government is undergoing austerity measures.

That was the picture eight years ago, just as current press secretary Kevin Bautista was putting on a toga and mor-

tarboard to close out his high school life. It feels like history is repeating itself these days-"graduating from high school in 2011 and being part of the first austerity measures.'



Bautista

Bautista joined the CNMI government in 2015.

Speaking in an interview soon after last week's Saipan Chamber of Commerce meeting where he mentioned his experience with government austerity as a fresh high school graduate then, Bautista readily concedes that the Torres administration's decision to implement the austerity measures was difficult, knowing full well that it was not going to be a popular decision. "It is not the best or fun thing to do but it is the most painless option that we have to do over a series of

scenarios," he said.

As it is right now—a 72hour work week— "ensures that we still have a payday Friday on the second week of the pay period," he added.

He describes it as a proactive approach when looking at the government's revenue collection: "ensuring that we didn't have to lay off anyone."

One important element. Bautista said, was that the government did not have to resort to furloughs.

"We did not want to resort to a decision of a furlough and that

was the [the] most important thing," he said.

Had the CNMI government opted to keep the 80-hour workweek and maintained that until the end of the fiscal year under the current budget authority, that would have resulted in 500 employees in the government being let go, he said.

"In the U.S. mainland, budget cuts are so severe that the decision in Congress leads to a thousand employees being cut [just] like that in a certain department across the board," he said.

Bautista describes the expe-

rience as both emotional and frustrating. "You graduate from high school with this goal of wanting to provide real progress. ... We ran on that platform because it was important for us to articulate that everyone deserves to feel progress."

"This economic challenge is not going to get solved overnight. ... We are managing a different and pro-active approach by looking at collection and ensuring that we didn't have to lay off anyone," he added.

Prioritizing full-on economic recovery by working with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, encouraging small businesses and tourism partners to revitalize the tourism industry, and diversifying the economy are on the lists of getting out of this mire, according to Bautista.

"We really need to come together as a community during this time. ... We are hopeful that the austerity measure will only be for the current fiscal year as it is early to say at this stage if it will continue in [fiscal year] 2020," he said.

"Eight years ago, I didn't thought I'd be in this position...but...we can't shy away from this challenge and let it define our future," he added.

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10 THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2019 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## **Opinion**



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**AP** The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## **EDITORIAL**

# There's a way to debate refugee asylum without victimizing unaccompanied minors

here is no question that the refugee crisis on the border is a humanitarian nightmare. But let us all also agree that unaccompanied migrant minors in federal shelters should be treated with basic human respect and decency.

That's our way of saying that the Trump administration is on the verge of making a horrible situation even more intolerable. The Office of Refugee Resettlement has begun to slash funding for English classes, recreational programs and legal aid for unaccompanied minors in federal migrant shelters. The Department of Health and Human Services says such programs are draining the budget and "not directly necessary for the protection of life and safety."

There's a lot wrong with this, both morally and pragmatically. The cutback would violate a more than two-decades-old federal court settlement and state licensing requirements that require education and recreation for minors in federal custody.

Besides, what is there to be gained by taking away structured activities and language lessons for youngsters who already bear the often invisible scars of a journey to escape violence? It doesn't matter that these are migrants from another nation, or how they got here. Ask child welfare experts, and they will tell you that the administration's action would threaten the medical and psychological health of already vulnerable children.

Making it more difficult for minors to obtain legal aid is even a greater travesty. What adult would go into court without an attorney? Why should children, some as young as 13 and already traumatized, face the prospect of going it alone in an immigration hearing?

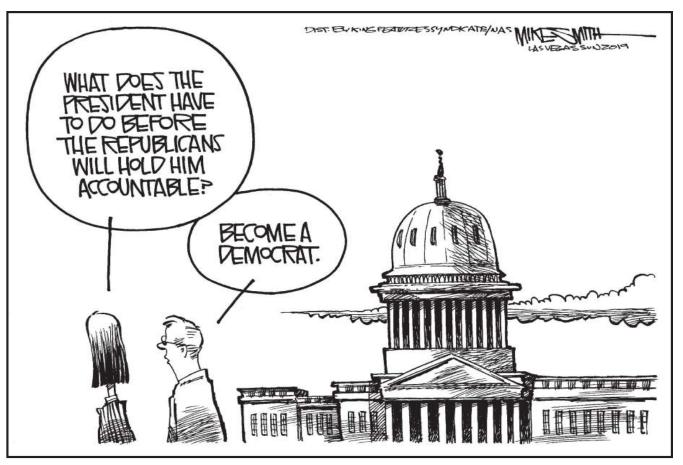
Legal representation doesn't mean that minors will get to stay, only that they will have someone available to advocate on their behalf, or assist in their return to their home country if they don't qualify for asylum.

Like it or not, the federal government owns this problem, which began with the administration's ill-advised family separation policy to discourage migrants from making the treacherous trek through Mexico to seek help at the U.S. border. Now the humanitarian crisis of unaccompanied migrant minors is straining the system.

Congress must provide emergency funding to expand shelters and care, and to increase the number of immigration judges to expedite the processing of claims. Long term, it needs to address the many facets of immigration. Create physical barriers along the border. Establish a citizenship path for immigrants brought illegally to the U.S. as children. Resolve the status of the millions of adults illegally in the United States.

As a nation, we are paying the price for failing to think about immigration comprehensively and devoting adequate resources to a solution. Reasonable people should be able to come up with a rational, humanitarian policy that balances security and the promise of a better life. Let's not make matters worse with a policy that further victimizes minors in the process.

(c)2019 The Dallas Morning News



# Men can't hear it, women don't say it—the everyday importance of 'no'

e was the third contractor my husband and I brought in for an estimate on a new roof, a major renovation we never saw coming, were not sure we needed and were agonizing over.

He talked on and on: shingle types, slide after iPad slide of water damage and hail destruction. Finally he got to the numbers: \$16,000 for the roof but—for us, just for us!—\$12,000.

"What do you think?" he asked.

I said we could use some time. He leaned in closer.

"What more do you need?" he pressed.

I told him we would look over all the facts and make a decision. I said this gently, nicely, so as not to bruise his ego. I was not interested—I'd been turned off by his pomp and swagger—so I used the common parlance for "no." But he wasn't having it.

"I don't understand," he said. "You don't think your house has a problem?"

I stammered. "Well, yes," I said.

"Do you think you need a new roof?" he railed, he bellowed. "Do you?"

This is when I got it. He saw me as the weak point, the woman, who could be made to feel defensive, who would fall into agreement with his superior experience and wisdom. But I was done with that. Many women are done with it. I was done with demure, done with I-don't-know, done with well-yes-sir.

"I don't appreciate being mansplained," I said.

He laughed, scornful. "I don't even know what that means," he replied, and I said, "And you just lost \$12,000 worth of business because of it."

For the rest of the afternoon, I fumed. I felt the lingering frizz of aggression on my skin, as if I'd been grabbed, or followed.

It is difficult to say no in sexual scenarios. It is sometimes a greater struggle to say no in the everyday situations in which men attempt to coerce women's time, energy and attention, perhaps because these situations often don't feel as urgent and the power dynamic isn't as blatant. The Me Too movement has generated an important conversation about consent and sex, but not nearly as much has been said about the dynamics of saying no in these myriad other scenarios.

When a male writer asked me for a "small favor" that turned out to involve more than 10,000 words of writing, I said no, but only after consulting a female friend and discovering that he'd asked her too; it seemed he'd only asked women. It was the first time I had ever said no to a man who held a degree of power and prestige over me, a shocking realization for a "strong" woman, age 36.

Women writers with multiple publications under their belts laugh quietly, later, at the haughty, amateur male who dominated the workshop conversation with declarations about literary technique. Young women smile and nod at an uncle's illogical and

#### By SARAH MENKEDICK

Los Angeles Times

Sarah Menkedick's second book, Ordinary Insanity: Fear, Anxiety, and the Silent Crisis of Motherhood, will be published next year.



inane black-and-white generalizations. We so often let the world be written by arrogant men, giving in to their windy confidence and inability to listen.

"I just wanted a no," the roofer had said as he left. I told him I had said no many times. He just refused to hear it.

This is not only a problem of women standing up for themselves but also of what our society values. Instead of asking women to be like stereotypical men—more aggressive, assertive and dominant—why don't we ask men to embrace the qualities that tend to be marginalized as feminine. Why don't we ask men to be humble and curious? To sit back and listen? To question themselves?

We celebrate the "strong woman" who is the closest possible option to maleness, whose femaleness is redeemed and qualified by a common male adjective. Meanwhile the rhetoric in our country has never been more belligerently masculine, or more shallow, oversimplified and destructive.

At the same time, women hold more power than ever: in Congress, in universities, as artists and entrepreneurs. Instead of emulating the old male models, these women can lead and rule and create in a different way: by listening, really listening to other people; by asking questions and pausing to reflect; by emphasizing humility, curiosity and care.

I want my daughter to feel empowered to say no in every context—to the man who tries to explain Mexico to her, or the man who asks her to do just this one little favor, make this one simple decision. I want her to say no to the boy who pushes in front of her on the slide.

I know she'll go on to have classes in which boys raise their hands more frequently and are called on more often. I know she's growing up in a system in which men are paid more than women and make up 75% of Congress. But this will change, and a huge part of that change will be women saying no in all sorts of ways that seem minor but erode the male entitlement to women's time, attention and decisions.

This isn't about being strong. It's about a world that runs on more than strength, than bluster and brag, than dominance and coercion. It's about the bold claim that such a world is possible, and women will make it.

**EDITORIAL POLICY** 

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan,

## What life is like when abortion is banned

Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

s Republicans in states around the country pass sweeping abortion bans, I think about what life could be like for women and girls if these laws take effect. I don't have to use my imagination.

Women and girls across Latin America are already living in places where abortion is heavily restricted or completely banned. In the past year, I've done research for Human Rights Watch in two countries that ban abortion completely, without any exceptions, even if the woman's life is in danger.

In the Dominican Republic, I spoke with Rosa Hernandez, whose

## **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

## A call for oversight and bipartisan collaboration

Dear Speaker BJ Attao: Our Commonwealth is in crisis. Public services and employees are reeling from erratic, possibly illegal, and disproportionate austerity measures. The administration has failed to provide this body, and the people we represent, with a full and detailed accounting of our current fiscal state and how we got here. We still have no idea how much money we have to operate this government for the rest of the fiscal year. We do not know how much longer austerity measures will continue, or if they might worsen. And this administration has not delivered any credible plan to move us forward.

The people of the Marianas are crying out for legislative oversight. They want answers. They want the truth. We cannot continue to ignore them. Regardless of party affiliation, as legislators we have a duty to investigate allegations of executive abuses and mismanagement, and take action to ensure transparency and accountability.

For weeks, the members of the minority have called for oversight. The urgency has not subsided, and is at this point even greater than before. We now propose to establish a bipartisan Special Investigative Committee to conduct a thorough inquiry into the present fiscal crisis: to hold hearings and interview witnesses under oath, to review and analyze records and decisions made, and report back to this body on their findings and recommended actions.

The minority members are also firmly opposed to at least two measures that have been suggested thus far by the administration. We oppose the issuance of pension obligation bonds. We do not get out of debt by borrowing more. We also oppose raising taxes on fuel. Fuel is a basic and necessary commodity, and is already extremely expensive on our islands.

But we do stand ready to work with our colleagues in the Legislature and with the administration to support reasonable and equitable measures to resolve the present crisis. Today we are proposing to implement a gambling revenue tax of 10 percent in the Third Senatorial District, where the vast majority of the Commonwealth's gaming activity occurs. Additionally, we are working on legislation to restrict the ability of any taxpayer to claim tax credits for gambling loans, and to clarify in the law that jackpot taxes apply to winnings in all gaming establishments, with no exceptions.

We also support a modest increase in excise taxes, as some members in the majority have suggested—provided that exceptions are made for food, medicine, and other essential goods.

**Rep. Edwin Propst** Rep. Christina Sablan **Rep. Edmund Villagomez** Rep. Sheila Babauta Rep. Richard Lizama **Rep. Donald Manglona** House of Representatives

21st Legislature, Capital Hill

daughter Rosaura Almonte Hernandez, known as "Esperancita," was diagnosed with leukemia. Doctors initially denied her chemotherapy because she was pregnant, and then refused to end the pregnancy because to do so would have been against the law. She died in 2012 at age 16. "They let my daughter die," her mother told me.

I met a health educator in the Dominican Republic who fought back tears as she told me how, a few weeks prior, she counseled a pregnant 11-year-old girl who had been raped by her stepfather. "She's just a little girl. She doesn't know what's going on in her life or in her body," she said. But because abortion is illegal even for pregnancies from rape or incest, the educator had no options other than to refer the girl for prenatal care.

In Honduras, I met a young woman facing jail time after having a miscarriage. Unaware that she was even pregnant, she went to a hospital in intense pain. Doctors suspected she had attempted an abortion and called the police. She was taken from the hospital in handcuffs and remains under court supervision pending a trial date.

This is what banning abortion looks like in 2019. And this is where the United States could be headed if the courts permit cruel state laws like those passed in Georgia and Alabama to weaken or dismantle the rights protected in the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade decision.

I carry these heartbreaking stories with me, but I also think of the dozens of women I've interviewed who told me how they defied strict abortion laws to end pregnancies they knew they couldn't continue. Research from around the world has shown that banning abortion doesn't stop it from happening—it just drives it underground.

Clandestine abortion is safer than it used to be because of medi-

cation, but even in 2019, women still die from unsafe abortion.

In Brazil, a country where abortion is illegal except in strictly limited circumstances, Ingriane Barbosa Carvalho, a mother of three in her early 30s, died last year from a botched abortion by a back-alley provider. An obstetrician-gynecologist in the Dominican Republic told me about a 19-year-old woman who came to the hospital in septic shock after an unsafe abortion two years before. She died despite the doctor's efforts to save her.

When abortion is heavily restricted or banned, women from poor, rural and marginalized communities suffer most, as they may not be able to afford to travel to places where abortion is legal, or pay what it costs.

Around the world, an estimated 8 to 11% of maternal deaths are caused by unsafe abortion. In May, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released data showing that hundreds of women die in the United States each year from preventable complications related to pregnancy. Preventable maternal deaths will only increase if access to abortion is further restricted.

If policymakers in states like Alabama and Georgia are concerned with protecting life and reducing abortion, the new laws they are enacting will not have that effect. Unplanned pregnancies will still happen, as they always do, and women will still need abortions. But these will happen behind closed doors, and more women and girls will be injured or die.

Margaret Wurth is a senior researcher at Human Rights Watch. This column was produced for the Progressive Media Project, which is run by The Progressive magazine, and distributed by the Tribune News Service.

## Welcome Reiwa: The Era of Beautiful Harmony

"Westerners like to conquer mountains; Orientals like to contemplate them. As for me, I like to taste the mountains."

—Santoka Taneda

Ocean Tasting is a group of poems inspired by Mountain Tasting, Haiku and Journals of Santoka Taneda. Santoka Taneda (1882-1940) was a Zen poet in the wandering hermit tradition of Japan. I have been inspired by his journals as much as his haiku. In place of "Tasting Mountains" I have written two sonnet trilogies, which I call "Ocean Tasting." The first trilogy is dedicated to Reiwa, which began on May 1, 2019 when Emperor Naruhito ascended to the throne, beginning the era of Beautiful Harmony.

#### WABI, SABI, and MIYO

Three friends, Simplicity, Solitude, and Impermanence, find a means to their ends.

Wabi liked oatmeal with brown sugar and milk a peanut butter and jelly sandwich for lunch he always wore wool or cotton never wore silk tied up his troubles in a little throwaway bunch

Sabi was kind of a loner liked to read in his room spoke very seldom and softly some thought him rude he was really quite pleasant when in a good mood and happened to enjoy plenty of quality solitude

Miyu was in a military family that always moved she was lucky for a while it wasn't really too far her genuine friendship for many years she proved after she could drive she went see her friends by car

Though they all ultimately went their own separate ways Wabi, Sabi, and Miyu stayed close and they still are today

#### Jiyu, Jiko, and Shizen

Three friends, Freedom, Self, and Naturalness, enjoy a hike.

Jivo, "so good that together we could finally all take a hike along the cliff line road high above the stormy sea

#### LITERARY NOOK By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and has been named a poet laureate of Tinian. He has taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.



taking time to find out and know what each of us like learning how to be good friends and the meaning of free"

Jiko, "Eeach one of us has problems with others and our selves getting to know and understand them is a lifelong chore today we are putting those problems away on a shelf listening to the roar of the ocean surf as it hits the shore

Shizen, "a trade wind blows through the coconut trees red birds call each other kingfishers fly by as we walk and talk and shoot the breeze laughing telling jokes and sometimes a lie

Sanpo, "our walk has helped us get to know each other helped friendship grow between sister and brother

## Chikara and Hikari

Two lovers, Strength and Brightness, surprise each other.

Chikara showed how to compromise and yet somehow win continuing to go on no matter how much she was resisted some green go lights a bright red face from forehead to chin almost completely losing it but 'nevertheless she persisted'

Hikari was almost always cheery and pleasant to be around lighthearted loving and caring for others most of the time a supportive friend and lover like Hikari is hard to be found his happiness comforts many others and it is truly sublime

It turns out that Chikara was indeed the stronger of the two she held the relationship together got them out of the blue Hikari's buoyancy and brightness was almost diminished Chikara's strength pulled him up before they were finished

By their respective qualities the two lovers were surprised they helped and needed each other more than they surmised. **12** THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2019 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## The Weather

#### 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN **TODAY FRIDAY** SATURDAY **SUNDAY MONDAY** Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to Partly cloudy with isolated **78º** 79° 79° **78°** 890 **78º**

# YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE AGRIHAN , SAIPAN

## PICTURE TIME: 8:14 AM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Andersen Air Force Base Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas waters, mainly south of Guam. Satellite shows mostly sunny skies east of the Marianas all the way to at least 150E. The VAD wind profile indicates east winds of 12 to 18 knots through the lowest 6 thousand feet of the air. The buoys reveal combined seas of 3 to 5 feet composed mainly of east swell with a few wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESI	A	<b>▲</b> ♥°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	88° / 80°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°

iviajuio	munderstorms	00 / 01
<b>AROUND TH</b>	E GLOBE	<b>≜</b> ▼°F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	63° / 55°
Beijing	Sunny	93° / 66°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	88° / 74°
London	Rain	61° / 54°
Los Angeles	Sunny	75° / 61°
Manila	Thunderstorms	91° / 82°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	61° / 46°
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
New York	Rain	70° / 60°
Osaka	Cloudy	82° / 66°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	72° / 54°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	75° / 64°
Rome	Sunny	90° / 66°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	83° / 57°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	64° / 53°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	81° / 61°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	79° / 64°
Washington, DC	Showers	80° / 60°



Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone

■\*11 on any IT&E cellular phone

■ Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIP	AN HARBOR TO	DAY FEET
4:02 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.03
11:03 AM	LOW TIDE	0.25
5:13 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.55
10:38 PM	LOW TIDE	0.79

		1		
DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET		
Today	5:46 AM	6:47 PM		
Friday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM		
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:48 PM 6:48 PM		
Sunday	5:46 AM			
Monday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM		

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:22 AM	3:01 PM
Friday	-	3:06 AM	3:56 PM
Saturday	-	3:51 AM	4:52 PM
Sunday	-	4:37 AM	5:48 PM
Monday	-	5:26 AM	6:43 PM

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	FLIG	HT S	CHEDULE	AS OF	JUNE	<b>2, 2</b> 0	)19
	DEI	PARTUI	RES		A	RRIVAL	.S
SAIPAN-0	GUAM (G	GUM)		GUAM (G	iUM)-SA	IPAN	
UA117	9:15am	10:00am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:15am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4	UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-I	BUSAN (	(PUS)		BUSAN (	PUS)-SA	IPAN	
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 3, 5, 7	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-S	EOUL (	ICN)		SEOUL (I	CN)-SAI	PAN	
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily	7C3402	09:30am	3:10pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	5:10am	8:55am	1, 7	7C3404		3:40am+1	
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	Daily	7C3404		4:10am+1	
SAIPAN-S	HANGH	IAI (PVG	)	SHANGH	AI (PVG)	-SAIPAN	l
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-I	IANGZH	iou (HGI	H)	HANGZH	OU (HGF	l)-SAIPA	N
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-0	GUANGZ	HOU (CA	NN)	GUANGZ	HOU (CA	N)-SAIP	AN
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-I	BEIJING	(PEK)		BEIJING	(PEK)-S	AIPAN	
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-I	ЛАNILA	(MNL)		MANILA	(MNL)-S	AIPAN	
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am		2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625		1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/183		8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA192/174		8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA117/183	9:15am		1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/174		8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	UA184/174		8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-I	iong K	ONG (HK	(G)	HONG KO	ONG (HK	G)-SAIPA	M
HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721		11:40am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625		1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721		11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HX076		00:30am+1	
UO43		8:25am	1	UO42		1:20am+1	7
UO43		8:40am	3, 5, 7	UO42		4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA117/159		9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	UA116/174		8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
			ay (2), Wednesday (3),				

Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN 1	O ROTA	8:00AM Daily 12:00PM Daily 4:30PM Daily  E ARRIVAL FREQUENCY 8:45AM Daily 2:15PM Daily 5:15PM Daily  E ARRIVAL FREQUENCY 12:45PM Daily 12:15PM Daily 12:15PM Daily 12:15PM Daily 12:15PM Daily 12:15PM Daily 12:10PM Daily 12:10PM Daily 12:15PM Daily 12:10PM Daily					
FLIGHT # 1301 1302 1303	DEPARTURE 7:30AM 11:30AM 4:00PM	8:00AM 12:00PM	Daily Daily	1205 1206 1207 1208	11:00AM 12:00PM 1:00PM 2:00PM	11:15AM 12:15PM 1:15PM 2:15PM	Daily Daily Daily Daily
<b>ROTA TO</b>	SAIPAN						
FLIGHT # 3101 3102 3103	DEPARTURE 8:15AM 1:45PM 4:45PM	8:45AM 2:15PM	Daily Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3103	4:4JI WI	J:1JI IVI	Daily	TINIAN T	O SAIPAN		
<b>ROTA TO</b>	GUAM						
FLIGHT # 3401	DEPARTURE 12:15PM			2103 2104	8:30AM 9:30AM	8:45AM 9:45AM	Daily Daily
<b>GUAM TO</b>	ROTA						
FLIGHT # 4301	DEPARTURE 1:00PM	ARRIVAL 1:30PM	FREQUENCY Daily	2107 2108	12:30PM 1:30PM	12:45PM 1:45PM	Daily Daily
SAIPAN 1	O TINIAN			FLIGHT # DEPARTURE ARRIVAL FREQUENCY 2102 7:30AM 7:45AM Daily 2103 8:30AM 8:45AM Daily 2104 9:30AM 9:45AM Daily 2105 10:30AM 10:45AM Daily 2106 11:30AM 11:45AM Daily 2107 12:30PM 12:45PM Daily 2108 1:30PM 1:45PM Daily 2109 2:30PM 2:45PM Daily 2110 3:30PM 3:45PM Daily 2110 3:30PM 3:45PM Daily 2111 4:30PM 4:45PM Daily 2112 5:30PM 5:45PM Daily			
FLIGHT # 1201 1202	DEPARTURE 7:00AM 8:00AM	ARRIVAL 7:15AM 8:15AM	FREQUENCY Daily Daily				Daily

SAIPAN TRIBUNE THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2019 **13** 



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## **Business**

## States sue to stop \$26.5 billion Sprint-T-Mobile deal

**NEW YORK** (AP)—A group of state attorneys general led by New York and California filed a federal lawsuit Tuesday to block T-Mobile's \$26.5 billion bid for Sprint, citing consumer harm.

The state attorneys general said the promised benefits, such as better networks in rural areas and faster service overall, cannot be verified, while eliminating a major wireless company will immediately harm consumers by reducing competition and driving up prices for cellphone service.

New York Attorney General Letitia James said in a statement that combining the two companies would reduce access to affordable, reliable wireless service nationwide and would particularly affect lower-income and minority communities in New York and other urban areas.

Other attorneys general joining Tuesday's lawsuit are from Colorado, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Virginia and Wisconsin. All 10 attorneys general are Democrats. The lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court in New York.

The lawsuit is an unusual step by state officials ahead of a decision by federal antitrust authorities. The Justice Department's decision is pending. The Republican majority of the Federal Communications Commission supports the deal, though the agency has yet to vote.

Too many "mega mergers have sailed through the governmental approval process," so it's up to the states to "step up," James said at a news



conference.

"There's no rule or regulation that we have to wait for the DOJ," she said. She added the attorneys general will "continue to litigate whether the DOJ approves the merger or not."

Diana Moss, the president of the American Antitrust Institute and an advocate for tougher antitrust enforcement, said the states' lawsuit could signal to other potential merger partners that there would be tougher enforcement from states even if the federal government permitted deals to go through.

James said Tuesday that her office's renewed focus on mergers and anti-competitiveness goes beyond the tech industry, though she did not elaborate.

T-Mobile and Sprint have argued that they need to bulk up to upgrade to a fast, powerful "5G" mobile network that competes with Verizon and AT&T. The companies are ap-

pealing to President Donald Trump's desire for the U.S. to "win" a global 5G race.

Consumer advocates, labor unions and many Democratic lawmakers worry that the deal could mean job cuts, higher wireless prices and a hit to the rural cellphone market.

Amanda Wait, an antitrust lawyer and former Federal Trade Commission lawyer, said states are acting because they disagree with what they have seen the federal government doing.

"They see the FCC accepting certain remedies and concessions that don't, in their minds, solve the problem," she said.

T-Mobile declined comment. Sprint and the Justice Department did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

One famous example of when the states and federal government diverged on a big antitrust case was in the fight against Microsoft, although that was not a merger case. Several states dissented from the Justice Department's set-

tlement roughly 20 years ago,

pushing for tougher sanctions

to curtail Microsoft's ability to use its dominance in the New York Attorney General Letitia James speaks during a news conference, Tuesday, June 11, 2019. in New York.

Windows operating system to thwart competition in other technologies.

More recently, in the Bayer-Monsanto agribusiness merger, five states last year criticized the federal government's approval.

T-Mobile and Sprint previously tried to combine during the Obama administration but regulators rebuffed them. They resumed talks on combining once Trump took office, hoping for more industryfriendly regulators.

T-Mobile has a reputation for consumer-friendly changes to the cellphone industry. T-Mobile and Sprint led the return of unlimited-data cellphone plans, for example.

T-Mobile, trying to reassure critics, promised the FCC it would build out a 5G network

and invest in rural broadband on a specific timeframe or pay penalties. It also promised to sell off Sprint's prepaid Boost Mobile brand and keep price increases on hold for three years.

That was enough for FCC Chairman Ajit Pai to back the deal. The other two Republican commissioners indicated they would join him.

But public-interest advocates said these conditions did not address concerns about higher prices and reduced competition— and would be difficult for regulators to enforce.

The Justice Department evaluates deals using stricter criteria than the FCC's "public interest" standard—namely whether they harm competition and raise prices for consumers. Staff attorneys at DOJ have reportedly told the companies they won't approve the deal as proposed, but the ultimate decision lies with Makan Delrahim, the top antitrust official who is a political appointee.

## N. Korea says it's fighting swine fever with quarantine

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)-North Korea said Wednesday it is actively fighting the spread of the highly contagious African swine fever weeks after it reported an outbreak near its border with China.

The North's official Rodong Sinmun newspaper said workers around the country were proceeding with "airtight" quarantine efforts to prevent the spread of the disease and ensure safety in livestock production.

African swine fever has decimated pig herds in China and other Asian countries. It's harmless to people but is fatal to pigs and has no known cure.

There's concern in South Korea that the outbreak in the North could spread across the border. Lee Sang-min, a spokesman for Seoul's Unification Ministry, which deals with inter-Korean affairs, said the North has yet to respond to calls for joint quarantine efforts.

The North Korean newspaper said quarantine efforts were focused on disinfecting farms and transport vehicles, restricting visitors, and banning the distribution of food products containing pork. The newspaper's references to nationwide quarantine efforts points to the possibility the disease has spread beyond the border area with China.

"At areas around the country, emergency quarantine efforts are being aggressively pushed to prevent the spread of the African swine fever, which is a highly contagious viral disease," the newspaper said.

South Korean officials say North Korea has not reported an additional case since it said the illness had occurred at a farm in Jagang province to the World Organization for Animal Health in late May. The North said 77 of the 99 pigs at the farm died of the disease and the remaining 22 pigs were culled.

But South Korean Unification Minister Kim Yeon-chul said in television interview on Sunday that the ministry was receiving unspecified "intelligence" that the disease was spreading to other areas in North Korea.

"It's difficult to accurately confirm (the spread of the disease), so there's a need for us to anticipate and prepare (for that possibility) to some degree," he said.

An outbreak South Korea could hurt a massive industry that involves 6,300 farms raising more than 11 million pigs.

South Korean workers have tested pigs from some 340 farms near the inter-Korean border, with all those tests results negative, and also installed fences and traps to prevent livestock from being infected by wild boars that roam in and out of North Korea.

South Korea's military, which is monitoring the movement of wild boars through heat sensors installed along the border, said it would be difficult for wild boars to cross over barbed wire fences in the mine-scattered border zone. But officials say there's still a possibility that the animals could swim across rivers.

South Korea is also tightening control at harbors and airports, while imposing a 5 million won (\$4,200) fine on travelers who fail to report food products containing pork after visiting countries dealing with African swine fever. Repeat offenders can be fined up to 10 million won (\$8,470).

## Ficke joins Triple J Saipan Group as GM for motors division

Triple J Enterprises, Inc. is pleased to announce Sean Ficke as the new general manager of Triple J Motors Saipan. Ficke replaces Randy Steele who retired last month to relocate to the mainland after 22 years of service with Triple J.

Ficke brings over 20 years' worth of management experience to the role. Prior to joining the team, Ficke was director of Special Operations for Jones & Guerrero Company, Inc. As general manager for Triple J Motors Saipan, he will be responsible for day to day operations and all aspects of the dealership to ensure the highest levels of customer service.

"With his proven leadership abilities and diverse business experience, Sean will continue to strive to make the car buying and ownership experience a smooth and positive one for



Ficke

customers," said Jay Jones, senior vice president of Triple J.

"I am excited to be part of the Triple J Motors team, there are so many talented people here who drive our

success every day and I look forward to helping them continue to work to achieve a Customers First experience in everything we do" Ficke said. (PR)

## LEADING INDICATORS

DOW 26,048.51 -14.17 .054%

2,885.72 -1.010.035%

NASDAQ 7,822.57 -0.60 0.0077%

## **EXCHANGE RATES** Australian Dollar

**British Pound** 0.7861 Canadian Dollar 1.3293 **Chinese Yuan** 6.7938 Euro 0.8825

Hong Kong Dollar	7.8224
Indian Rupee	68.7483
Japanese Yen	108.4870
Malaysian Ringgit	4.1185
New Zealand Dolla	r <b>1.5223</b>
Philippine Peso	50.9621

Russian Ruble	64.4299
Singapore Dollar	1.3649
South Korean Won	1162.03
Swiss Franc	0.9912
Taiwan Dollar	30.8997
Thailand Baht	31.2075

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## **Nation**

## Trump, Biden trade barbs amid dueling Iowa campaign visits

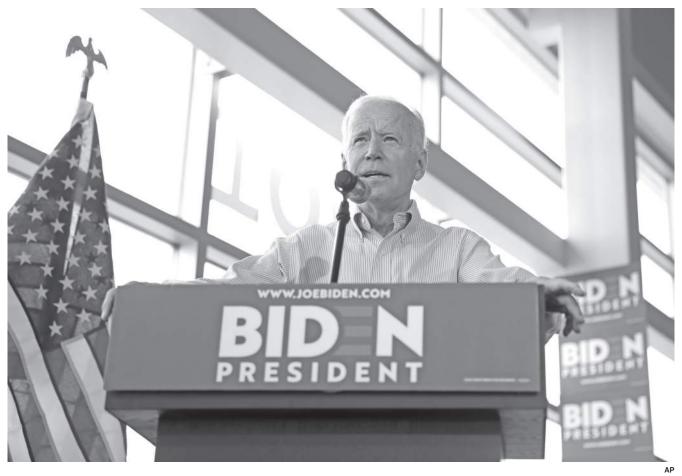
Iowa (AP)-President Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden spent Tuesday trading insults—sometimes almost simultaneously— as they stumped across Iowa in splitscreen moments that could preview a ferocious fight ahead if the two face off for the presidency next year.

The back and forth laid bare the rising political stakes for each man, even with the election about 17 months away. Trump has zeroed in on Biden as a potential threat to his reelection chances and is testing themes to beat him back. Biden, meanwhile, is campaigning as a front-runner, relishing the one-on-one fight with Trump while making sure he doesn't ignore the demands of the Democratic primary.

"People don't respect him," Trump said after touring a renewable energy facility in Council Bluffs. "Even the people that he's running against, they're saying: 'Where is he? What happened?""

With a dose of exaggeration and name-dropping his 2016 rival, Hillary Clinton, the president added: "He makes his stance in Iowa once every two weeks and then he mentions my name 74 times in one speech. I don't know. That reminds me of Crooked Hillary. She did the same thing."

At almost the same moment in Mount Pleasant, Biden noted the attention he has been getting from Trump. Biden's appearances from earlier in



Democratic presidential candidate former Vice President Joe Biden speaks during a town hall meeting, Tuesday, June 11, 2019, in Ot-

the day were playing on TV screens when Air Force One landed in Iowa.

"I guess he's really fascinated by me," said Biden, who mentioned Trump by name about a dozen times during his first two events in Iowa. "I find it fascinating." He started to say more but then stopped himself, quipping: "My mother would say: 'Joey, focus. Don't descend. Stay up."

ers about his repeated assurances that he wouldn't openly criticize Trump while campaigning, Biden said, "By not talking about him personally—talking about where I disagree with him on the issues, why he's doing such damage to the country—that's totally different than attacking his character or lack thereof."

Speaking Tuesday night in Pressed later by report- Davenport, Biden said voters must stop the president's attempts to elevate his office beyond its traditional limits of power. Trump is "breaking down the barriers that constrain his power," Biden said, and acting like he has "com-

cheers from a crowd of around 500 at the Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds.

Trump, meanwhile, insisted that Biden was the candidate he hoped to face off against in 2020.

"I'd rather run against Biden than anybody," Trump told reporters on the White House lawn before flying to Iowa. "I think he's the weakest mentally, and I like running against people that are weak mentally."

Biden began the day in Ottumwa, the heart of Wapello County, a meat-packing and agricultural manufacturing center that Trump was the first Republican to carry since Dwight D. Eisenhower. It's part of Biden's dual track approach: campaigning for the caucuses while projecting himself as someone who can win in territory Trump snatched from Democrats in 2016, such as Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

There, the former vice president hit Trump on the economy-an issue the president often promotes as his chief strength in a time of low unemployment.

"I hope his presence here will be a clarifying event because Iowa farmers have been crushed by his tariffs toward China," Biden said. "It's really easy to be tough when someone else absorbs the pain, farmers and manufacturers."

Biden added that Trump "backed off his threat of tariffs to Mexico basically because he realized he was likely to lose" in manufacturing states such as Michigan and Ohio. He broadly branded Trump "an existential threat to this country" and said his behavior is beneath the office of the presidency.

## **ACROSS THE NATION**

#### TV station seeks to replace weatherman who criticized alert

**SPRINGFIELD, Ill.** (AP)—The Springfield, Illinois television station whose "Code Red" weather alert drew an on-air reproach from its morning meteorologist has posted an employment advertisement seeking the weatherman's replacement. The ad for a WICS-TV morning meteorologist showed up Tuesday on the Sinclair Broadcast Group's website. Meteorologist Joe Crain said during a June 5 broadcast that he understands viewers' complaints about the "Code Red" brand. Critics say the moniker is overused, unnecessarily alarms people, harms businesses and marks the entire viewing area with the alert regardless of how isolated the storm threat. Crain hasn't been seen on air since he made his comments. As a result, several prominent advertisers have pulled spots from the station. Station officials have not commented on why Crain is no longer on the air, citing a personnel matter.

#### Kentucky State Police: Man killed. trooper hurt in shooting

HAZARD, Ky. (AP)—Kentucky State Police say a man was killed and a trooper injured in an exchange of gunfire at a house near where officers were serving a search warrant. The man who was killed was one of several people who came out of the house after police arrived at a

nearby location in Perry County on Monday evening. Police said the man was armed with a gun and refused to obey when told to drop the weapon. A news release from police said gunfire was exchanged, injuring one trooper and fatally wounding the armed man. The injured trooper was hospitalized overnight. Police didn't identify the man who was killed or the injured trooper.

#### **August execution set for Florida** killer who targeted gav men

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)—A convicted killer in Florida who authorities say targeted gay men is scheduled to be executed later this summer. Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a death warrant Tuesday for 57-year-old Gary Ray Bowles. The execution is set for Aug. 22 at Florida State Prison. Records show Bowles was convicted of three murders and sentenced to death for the 1994 slaying of Walter Hinton. Authorities say Bowles agreed to help Hinton move items from Georgia to Hinton's Jacksonville home in November 1994. While staying with Hinton, Bowles dropped a concrete block on the other man's head and then strangled him. Police say Bowles confessed to the killing after his arrest and professed hatred for homosexuals. Investigators say Bowles also admitted to killing five other men across Florida, Georgia and Maryland.

plete power." "No, you don't, Donald Trump!" Biden thundered into the microphone, sparking Pelosi says Dems'not even close' to starting impeachment

WASHINGTON (AP)— Brushing back calls for impeachment, Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Tuesday "it's not even close" to having enough support in the House, while Democrats pushed forward on other fronts to investigate President Donald Trump.

The House voted 229-191 to approve a resolution that will allow Democrats to accelerate their legal battles with the Trump administration over access to information from the Russia investigation.

At the same time, they're convening hearings this week even want to talk about him." on special counsel Robert Mueller's report in an effort to boost public interest in the findings of the Trump-Russia probe while digging into a legal strategy aimed at forcing Attorney General William Barr, former White House counsel Don McGahn and others into compliance with congressional oversight.

"We need answers to the questions left unanswered by the Mueller report," Pelosi said on the House floor ahead of voting.

House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy countered that the Democratic maneuvers are all "just a desperate attempt to relitigate the Mueller investigation." He called it "an impeachment effort in everything but name."

Earlier in the day, Pelosi all but ignored questions about impeachment during a policy conference, saying the Democrats' strategy is "legislating, investigating, litigating"—in that order.

Pressed about Trump, she said: "I'm done with him. I don't

The House's far-reaching resolution approved Tuesday empowers committee chairs to sue top Trump administration officials to force compliance with congressional subpoenas, including those for Mueller's full report and his underlying evidence. They now no longer need a vote of the full House.

The Judiciary Committee chairman, Rep. Jerry Nadler of New York, urged his colleagues to support the legislation "so we can get into court and break the stonewall

without delay."

After the vote, Nadler said he would go to court "as quickly as possible" against McGahn, who at the behest of the White House has defied subpoenas for documents and his testimony.

The chairman also said he is prepared to go to court to enforce subpoenas against former White House communications director Hope Hicks and Annie Donaldson, a former McGahn aide, if they don't show up for scheduled interviews this month.

And Nadler added new names to the list, saying he is also interested in hearing from Assistant Attorney General Jody Hunt, who served as former Attorney General Jeff Sessions' chief of staff, and former White House aide Rick Dearborn. Both are mentioned frequently in the Mueller report.

"Either work with us and comply with subpoenas or we'll see you in court," said Rep. James McGovern, D-Mass., the chairman of the Rules Committee.

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## Asia

## HK delays bill debate as protest crowds amass at HQ

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong delayed a legislative session on a contentious extradition bill as thousands of protesters amassed to block entry to the building Wednesday out of concern the measure signaled greater Chinese control and further erosion of civil liberties in the semiautonomous territory.

The overwhelmingly young crowd of demonstrators filled nearby streets, overturned barriers and tussled with police outside the government headquarters and offices of the Legislative Council.

A statement from the gov-

ernment's press service said the session of the Hong Kong's Legislative Council that was scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. would be "changed to a later time to be determined" by the council secretariat. Council members would be notified of the time of the meeting later, the statement said.

A protester who gave only his first name, Marco, said he hoped the action would persuade Chief Executive Carrie Lam's administration to shelve the proposed amendments to the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance and the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Ordinance.

"We want the government to just set the legislation aside and not bring it back," he said.

A fellow protester who gave her name as King said the protest was a watershed moment for Hong Kong's young generation, who face difficult job prospects and skyrocketing housing prices.

"We have to stand up for our rights or they will be taken away," she said.

The reluctance of protesters to be identified by their full names and professions —

many wore surgical masks to obscure their facial features — reflected an increasingly hardline approach to civil unrest by the authorities. Such actions are never tolerated in mainland China, and Hong Kong residents can face travel bans and other repercussions if they cross the border.

Another statement from the government's information office said access roads leading to the Central Government Offices were blocked and police has implemented traffic arrangements.

Staff members were advised

many wore surgical masks to obscure their facial features— reflected an increasingly hard- line approach to civil unrest by not to go to into work and those already on the premises were told to "stay at their working place until further notice."

Under its "one country, two systems" framework, Hong Kong was supposed to be guaranteed the right to retain its own social, legal and political systems for 50 years following its handover from British rule in 1997. However, China's ruling Communist Party has been seen as increasingly reneging on that agreement by forcing through unpopular legal changes.

The government pushed ahead with plans to present the amendments to the legislature on Wednesday despite a weekend protest by hundreds of thousands of people that was the territory's largest political demonstration in more than a decade. A crowd began gath-

ering outside the Legislative Council on Tuesday night, and U.S. Consulate is warning people to avoid the area, exercise caution and keep a low profile. Some businesses closed for the day, and labor strikes and class boycotts were also called.

The legislation has become a lightning rod for concerns about Beijing's increasing control over the semi-autonomous territory.

Lam has consistently defended the legislation as necessary to close legal loopholes with other countries and territories. A vote was scheduled on June 20.

Sunday's protest was widely seen as reflecting growing apprehension about relations with the Communist Party-ruled mainland, whose leader, Xi Jinping, has said he has zero tolerance for those demanding greater self-rule for Hong Kong.



## Pakistan PM vows accountability for ex-premier, ex-president

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's prime minister vowed Tuesday to ensure that former president Asif Ali Zardari and ex-premier Nawaz Sharif are held accountable for wrongdoing, accusing them of being responsible for the financial crisis currently faced by the Islamic nation.

In a televised speech, Imran Khan said Pakistan's foreign debt increased dramatically during the two men's tenures. He said he will set up a high-powered body to investigate where foreign loan money obtained by Zardari and Sharif was spent.

"I will not spare them," he said. "I will go after them."

Sharif, who served as the country's premier three times, was ousted from office by the Supreme Court in 2017 because of the corruption charges against him. Sharif, along with other family members, has cases still pending against him.

Zardari, currently a member

in the lower house of parliament, and his sister have been accused by the National Accountability Bureau of holding dozens of bogus bank accounts. They have denied any wrongdoing.

Khan's comments came hours after his government presented its first budget proposal, which calls for additional taxes and increasing electricity and gas tariffs to meet International Monetary Fund conditions for receiving a \$6 billion bailout.

His speech also came hours after a Pakistani court handed Zardari over to a national antigraft body for questions regarding a multi-million-dollar money laundering case.

Asif Ali Zardari will be held for 10 days pending an investigation.

The court order came a day after Zardari was arrested after he and his sister's bail applications were denied. However, authorities did not arrest Faryal Talpur. No explanation was given.

Zardari's opposition Pakistan People's Party claims the charges against him are politically motivated, which the government denies. Several prominent politicians and businessmen have been swept up on corruption charges since Khan took office last year, after winning a narrow majority in parliamentary elections. Khan campaigned heavily on promises to root out graft among the country's elite.

Zardari, widower of assassinated former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, was president for five years, until 2013.

Zardari's Tuesday court hearing was held amid tight security, as his party's supporters held small rallies across the country to condemn the arrest. Zardari will appear in court again on June 21, when the anti-graft body is expected to press or drop charges.

Also on Tuesday, the anti-

graft body arrested Hamza Shahbaz, a politician who is the son of opposition leader Shahbaz Sharif, after the rejection of his bail in a corruption case. He is also the nephew of

Nawaz Sharif.

Sharif and Zardari are long-time political rivals but their parties recently joined together, vowing to launch a protest campaign against Khan's government over increasing inflation and a spike in prices of essential food items.

Meanwhile, police in London on Tuesday arrested Altaf Hussain, the self-exiled leader of the ethnic-based Muttahida Qaumi party. Pakistan has sought his arrest since a televised speech in August 2016 condemning the country's politically influential army, staterun media reported.

It was not immediately clear why British authorities detained Hussain. The London police said in a statement that an investigation was ongoing.

## Trump says he wouldn't allow US to use Kim family as assets

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump said Tuesday that he would not approve of U.S. intelligence agencies using family members of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un as assets, a day after a report that Kim's half brother had traveled to Malaysia to meet his CIA contact before being assassinated there in 2017.

Trump said he was aware of the report on Kim Jong Nam's alleged contacts with U.S. intelligence published Monday by The Wall Street Journal, which cited a "person knowledgeable about the matter." The U.S. president said his message to the North Korean leader would be that, "I wouldn't let that happen under my auspices."

Trump's comments came as he continued to lavish praise on Kim Jong Un, who has aggressively pursued a nuclear weapons program while running a government accused of brutal human rights abuses, even after a breakdown in their nuclear talks earlier this year in Vietnam. Trump, who said he had "just received a beautiful letter" from Kim, said Kim had kept his word in halting tests of nuclear weapons and long-range ballistic missiles.

Following a provocative run in weapons tests, Kim initiated diplomacy with Seoul and Washington in 2018, which led to three summits with South Korea's president and his first meeting with Trump in Singapore

last June, where they issued a vague statement on a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula without describing how and when it would occur.

The lack of substance and fruitless working-level talks set up the collapse of the second Trump-Kim meeting in February, which the Americans blamed on North Korea's excessive demands for sanctions relief in exchange for only a partial surrender of its nuclear capabilities.

The North has since expressed its displeasure by resuming short-range missile tests and issuing belligerent rhetoric toward Washington and Seoul. Kim has said the United States has until the end of the year to offer mutually acceptable terms for a deal to salvage the diplomacy.

On Tuesday, officials at South Korea's National Intelligence Service and Unification Ministry, which oversees ties with North Korea, said they couldn't confirm the report on Kim Jong Nam.

While Kim Jong Nam spent much of his life abroad after falling out of favor with his family, he was constantly aware of the monitoring presence of Pyongyang and obsessed by fears that he would get assassinated, South Korean officials have said. Following his death, the NIS told South Korean lawmakers that North Korea had tried for several years to kill him and that he sent a letter to Kim Jong Un in 2012 begging for the lives of himself and his family.

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## World

## Botswana decriminalizes gay sex in landmark Africa case

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Botswana became the latest country to decriminalize gay sex on Tuesday, a landmark case for Africa, as the High Court rejected laws punishing it with up to seven years in prison.

Jubilant activists in the packed courtroom cheered the unanimous decision in the southern African nation that is seen as one of the continent's most stable and democratic. The ruling came less than a month after Kenya's High Court had upheld similar sections of its own penal code in another closely watched case.

"Botswana is the ninth country in the past five years to have decriminalized consensual same-sex relationships," U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

"Consensual same-sex sexual relationships remain criminalized in at least 67 countries and territories worldwide," he told reporters at U.N. headquarters in New York.

More than two dozen countries in sub-Saharan Africa have laws criminalizing gay sex, often holdovers from colonial times. Earlier this year, the southern African nation of Angola decriminalized samesex activity and banned discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Those arguing against the laws say they leave people in

the LGBT community vulnerable to discrimination and abuse while making it difficult to access basic health and other services.

The Botswana-based nongovernmental group LE-GABIBO, which supported the anonymous petitioner in the case, has said such laws "infringe on basic human dignity."

People in the courtroom were ecstatic, leaping up, clapping and ululating, LE-GABIBO legal policy director Caine Youngman told The Associated Press. When the judges said the right to privacy includes the right to choose a partner, "it hit home," he said.

"I'm a gay man. I've been out for many years. Now I can live with my partner without worry," Youngman said. He said the state might appeal "to appease the homophobes" and has 30 working days to do so.

The ruling led to rejoicing from rights groups that had expressed frustration with the Kenyan decision last month, including ones in countries such as Nigeria, Uganda and Ghana where gay sex remains illegal. Amnesty International called on other African nations to follow Botswana's example in "an exciting new era of acceptance."

Botswana's High Court said in its ruling that penalizing

people for who they are is disrespectful and discriminatory, and that the law should not deal with private acts between consenting adults.

Sexual orientation is innate and not a "fashion statement," the judges said. "Any criminalization of love or finding fulfillment in love dilutes compassion and tolerance."

The ruling cited the recent decriminalization in India and elsewhere. It also pointed out that all three arms of Botswana's government have expressed the need to protect the rights of the gay community.

Before the ruling, LEGA-BIBO shared a comment attributed to President Mokgweetsi Masisi: "There are also many people of samesex relationships in this country who have been violated and have also suffered in silence for fear of being discriminated. Just like other citizens, they deserve to have their rights protected."

The judges cited the president's comment in their ruling.

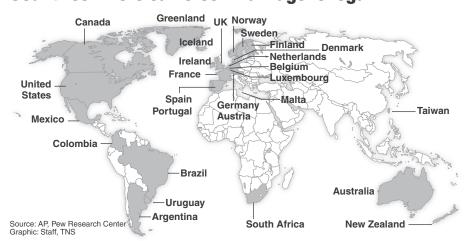
Botswana in recent years has taken other steps toward protecting LGBT rights. The High Court in 2017 ruled that the government should issue a transgender man documentation reflecting his identity. And in 2016 an appeals court ruled that LEGABIBO could register as a nonprofit.

## **Sexual orientation laws in the world**

Botswana became the latest country to decriminalize gay sex in a landmark case for Africa when the High Court rejected as unconstitutional sections of the penal code punishing same-sex relations with up to seven years in prison.



## **Countries where same-sex marriage is legal**



## **WORLD BRIEFS**

## Syria says Israel hit military position in country's south

BEIRUT (AP)—Syria's state-run news agency says Israel has attacked a military position in southern Syria, causing material damage. SANA said that during the Wednesday morning attack on al-Harra hill, Syrian air defenses were able to shoot down some of the Israeli missiles before they reached their target. The agency said that "after the aggression," the Israeli military began jamming Syrian military radars. Israel does not usually comment on reports concerning its strikes in neighboring Syria, though it has recently acknowledged striking Iranian targets there. On June 2, Syria blamed Israel for attacks that killed four soldiers. For years, Israel has remained largely silent about its attacks against Iran and its Shiite proxies operating in neighboring Syria. But in recent months, military and political leaders have become increasingly outspoken about these activities.

## Rival governments vie for power in Moldova political crisis

CHISINAU, Moldova (AP)—Moldova's rival governments accused each other of usurping power Tuesday amid an escalating political crisis in the impoverished ex-Soviet nation. After months of deadlock following February's elections in which no party won a majority, the pro-Russian Socialist Party of President Igor Dodon made a surprise announcement over the weekend that it was forming a coalition government with ACUM, Prime Minister Maia Sandu's pro-Europe party. But the former ruling Democratic

Party, controlled by powerful oligarch Vladimir Plahotniuc, refused to concede defeat. One of the country's richest men, Plahotniuc is widely seen as Moldova's de facto leader. On Sunday, the Constitutional Court—regarded as under the control of Plahotniuc—dismissed Dodon as president, and appointed outgoing Prime Minister Pavel Filip as his replacement. Filip immediately called for parliament to be dissolved and re-elected in snap elections, a move Dodon called unlawful. Both the new coalition partners and Plahotniuc accuse the other side of usurping power.

## Leader say Brexit shows Scotland must chart a new path

BRUSSELS (AP)—Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon says Brexit and the "horror show" of the British government leadership contest are signs that Scotland needs to chart a different future path, probably outside the United Kingdom. Sturgeon said Tuesday that "increasingly, Scotland and the U.K. are on different political paths. We have to confront whether the better response to that is to have the ability to be independent and shape our own future." Speaking to European Union experts and journalists at the European Policy Centre think-tank in Brussels, she said "the people of Scotland have to have a choice before it's too late to stop the damage of Brexit being done." Sturgeon held talks with EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier and was due to meet later with European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker.

## Boris Johnson builds momentum in UK Conservative race

LONDON (AP)—Boris Johnson solidified his front-runner status in the race to become Britain's next prime minister on Tuesday, gaining backing from leading pro-Brexit lawmakers.

But he faced calls from his rivals to abandon his lowprofile campaign strategy and start answering questions from journalists and the public.

Ten candidates are running to succeed Theresa May, who stepped down last week as Conservative Party leader.

Johnson, 54, has won the backing of many Brexiteer Conservatives by promising to lead Britain out of the European Union by Oct. 31, with or without a divorce deal.

Brexit-backing ex-party leader Iain Duncan Smith wrote in Tuesday's Daily Telegraph that Johnson "is the most likely to deliver on the requirement to leave the EU" by that date.

Johnson has also been endorsed by some pro-EU Tories who think the flamboyant, tousle-haired ex-foreign secretary has the skills to energize a demoralized party and win back voters angry at the mess politicians have

made of Brexit.

In a straw poll among a right-of-center bloc of Tory lawmakers on Monday, Johnson received almost double the votes of his nearest rival.

Most have given television and radio interviews and held public launch events—things Johnson has so far avoided, in an attempt to reduce the chance of gaffes that could derail his campaign. He also has not said whether he will participate in planned televised debates among leadership candidates.

The right-leaning Daily Mail newspaper said in an editorial that "if he wants to win, this bunker mentality is simply not good enough. Even though he's the favorite, he can't just sit back and hope to win by default."

Health Secretary Matt Hancock, another contender, said "everybody who puts their name forward to be prime minister should be open to scrutiny, should be accountable."

"I think everybody should participate in the proposed TV debates and I think we have got to ask the question, why not?" he told the BBC.

May resigned as Conservative leader last week after failing three times to secure Parliament's backing for her divorce deal with the EU. She'll remain caretaker prime minister until the party chooses a replacement.

The candidates to succeed her divide between those, including Johnson, who say the U.K. must leave on the scheduled date of Oct. 31, and others willing to delay departure in order to secure a divorce deal that's acceptable both to the EU and to Parliament.

"It is not going to be possible to leave on the 31st of October," said candidate Mark Harper, who said more time would be needed to secure a reworked deal with the EU and get it through Parliament.

But former House of Commons leader Andrea Leadsom put herself firmly in the hard Brexit camp, saying that "leaving the EU on October 31 is for me a hard, red line."

In votes starting Thursday, the 313 Conservative lawmakers will narrow the field of 10 candidates down to two, who will be put to a vote of about 160,000 party members nationwide.

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## Environment



In this undated file photo provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a Mexican gray wolf leaves cover at the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge, Socorro County, N.M. Wildlife managers have confirmed that a record number of Mexican gray wolves have been reported dead this year, fueling concerns about the decades-long effort to return the endangered predator to the American Southwest. Officials say five wolves were found dead in New Mexico in November alone, bringing the total for the year to 17. It also marks one of the deadliest months in the history of the reintroduction program.

LBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—It's shaping up to be a deadly year for livestock in the American Southwest as the number of cows and calves killed by Mexican gray wolves has skyrocketed, aggravating an already tenuous relationship between U.S. wildlife managers, environmentalists and rural residents.

Federal reports show the endangered wolves have been blamed for the deaths of 88 domestic animals in New Mexico and Arizona in the first four months of the year.

That's on pace to surpass the nearly 100 livestock kills confirmed in all of 2018 and significantly more than has been recorded over the same four-month period in any year since the predators were reintroduced in 1998.

More Mexican wolves are in the wild now than at any time since they were nearly exterminated decades ago. A subspecies of the Western gray wolf, Mexican wolves have faced a difficult road to recovery that has been complicated by politics and conflicts with livestock.

Catron County Manager Bill Green said his constituents have seen calf birth rates drop by one-third or more and they feel there's nowhere to turn because federal officials say they have a responsibility under the federal Endangered Species Act to restore the wolves.

Some ranchers and rural residents expect things to get worse as the wolf population grows. There are at least 131 of the predators in the mountain ranges spanning southwestern New Mexico and southeastern Arizona.

"On the local front, it's been a battle to keep the impact as small as possible," Green said. "We have several ranchers in areas next to wilderness that are already being run out of business."

Wolves were found to be responsible for killing more than



This Dec. 7, 2011, file photo, shows an endangered Mexican wolf at the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge in central New Mexico. Two endangered Mexican wolves have been removed from the wild and are undergoing testing to determine if they're behind a string of livestock deaths in southwestern New Mexico, marking the latest wrinkle in the strained effort to return the predators to the American Southwest.

three dozen cows and calves in April alone. That was almost double the previous month.

While ranchers see the reintroduction program as a threat to a livelihood already complicated by drought and rising costs, environmentalists contend more can be done to discourage wolves from targeting livestock.

The environmental group Defenders of Wildlife has been working with some ranchers in the Southwest. Some ideas are simple—from using range riders to keep a close eye on herds or quickly disposing of cattle carcasses to keep from attracting wolves.

Brady McGee, who heads the Mexican wolf recovery

program for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said wolves often can run into trouble because the grazing and calving seasons are yearround in the Southwest.

"Part of this is for the wolf program to survive, we need to create a social tolerance out there," he said. "In order to create that social tolerance, we have to be able to reduce and minimize wolves eating livestock and reduce those conflicts."

Some money is allocated annually for reimbursing livestock losses, but federal officials acknowledge they need more to provide incentives for the livestock industry to take more precautions to protect herds.

McGee said wildlife managers could set up food caches for denning wolves to shift the focus from cattle. He also suggested ranchers reposition their herds at key times and pen them up in smaller pastures, explaining that some of the highest livestock mortality comes early in the year when

wolves are denning.

"That's part of what the livestock industry could do, is be part of that chess game and move their cows around," he said.

Some argue the wolves already are highly managed: They're rounded up when they stray outside certain boundaries, when they pair with the wrong mate or if they develop an affinity for livestock. Biologists also decide which captive-bred pups are matched with wild packs as part of fostering efforts to boost the population.

Bryan Bird with Defenders of Wildlife says wolves are as much a social and cultural issue for ranchers and rural residents as they are a scientific challenge.

"We believe that social change can only come from inside the community," Bird said. "It doesn't come from the federal government or the advocates pushing change on these people. It has to happen from within, and it has to happen organically."

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## Life & Style

## Jon Stewart lashes out at Congress over 9/11 victims fund

WASHINGTON (AP)—Comedian Jon Stewart scolded Congress Tuesday for failing to ensure that a victims' compensation fund set up after the 9/11 attacks never runs out of money.

Stewart, a longtime advocate for 9/11 responders, angrily called out lawmakers for failing to attend a hearing on a bill to ensure the fund can pay benefits for the next 70 years. Pointing to rows of empty seats at a House Judiciary Committee hearing room, Stewart said "sick and dying" first responders and their families came to Washington for the hearing, only to face a

nearly deserted dais.

The sparse attendance by lawmakers was "an embarrassment to the country and a stain on this institution," Stewart said, adding that the "disrespect" shown to first responders now suffering from respiratory ailments and other illnesses "is utterly unacceptable."

Lawmakers from both parties said they support the bill and were monitoring the hearing amid other congressional business.

Rep. Mike Johnson, R-La., predicted the bill will pass with overwhelming support and said lawmakers meant



no disrespect as they moved in and out of the subcommittee hearing, a common occurrence on Capitol Hill.

Stewart was unconvinced. Pointing to rows of uniformed firefighters and po-

lice officers behind him, he said the hearing "should be flipped," so that first responders were on the dais, with

members of Congress "down here" in witness chairs answering their questions.

First and foremost, Stewart said, families want to know, "Why this is so damn hard and takes so damn long?"

The collapse of the World Trade Center in September 2001 sent a cloud of thick dust billowing over Lower Entertainer and activist Jon Stewart lends his support to firefighters, first responders and survivors of the September 11 terror attacks at a hearing by the House Judiciary Committee as it considers permanent authorization of the Victim Compensation Fund, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, June 11, 2019.

Manhattan. Fires burned for weeks. Thousands of construction workers, police officers, firefighters and others spent time working in the soot, often without proper respiratory protection.

In the years since, many have seen their health decline, some with respiratory or digestive-system ailments that appeared almost immediately, others with illnesses that developed as they aged, includ-

More than 40,000 people have applied to the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund, which covers illnesses potentially related to being at the World Trade Center site, the Pentagon or Shanksville, Pennsylvania, after the attacks. More than \$5 billion in benefits have been awarded out of the \$7.4 billion fund, with about 21,000 claims pending.

Stewart and other speakers lamented the fact that nearly 18 years after the attacks, first responders and their families still have no assurance the fund will not run out of money. The Justice Department said in February that the fund is being depleted and that benefit payments are being cut by up to 70 percent.

## Lawyer Linda Fairstein condemns Netflix series on Central Park Five

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Former "Central Park Five" prosecutor Linda Fairstein is condemning how she's portrayed in the Netflix series "When They See Us," writing that the program is "full of distortions and falsehoods."

Directed by Ava DuVernay, the film tells of the wrongful conviction of five black and Latino teenagers for the 1989 assault on a female jogger in Central Park. Fairstein, who headed Manhattan's sex crimes unit at the time, has long been criticized for her role in the suspects' interrogation. Fallout from the Netflix show has led to her being dropped by her book publisher, Dutton.

In an op-ed Tuesday in The Wall Street Journal, Fairstein said the film's falsehoods included saying the suspects were held without food and attributing racist remarks to her that she never said.

"Ms. DuVernay's film attempts to portray me as an overzealous prosecutor and a bigot, the police as incompetent or worse, and the five suspects as innocent of all charges against them. None of this is true," she wrote.

Netflix declined comment Tuesday, but DuVernay responded to a tweet from film executive Franklin Leonard, who wrote that "It appears we've come to the part of the cycle where folks wrongly accuse a brilliant bit of filmmaking by @ava of being 'so full of distortions and falsehoods as to be an outright fabrication."

DuVernay wrote: "Expected and typical. Onward."

## Film academy sets 2021, 2022 Oscars date for late February

LOS ANGELES (AP)— The Oscars will be headed back to late February after next year's show.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences says Tuesday that the 93rd and 94th ceremonies will be held on Feb. 28, 2021 and Feb. 27, 2022 respectively.

The 2020 show was moved up significantly on the calendar to Feb. 9, drastically truncating the awards season calendar.

But the organization that puts on the show says that the following two shows will remain on the last Sunday of February to account for events like the 2022 Olympics, the Super Bowl and national holidays.

The Oscars have in recent years faced declining viewership, but this year saw an uptick with a hostless show. They will air live on ABC at 8 p.m. Eastern.

## Singer Steve Lawrence says he has Alzheimer's disease

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Singer Steve Lawrence revealed Tuesday that he has been diagnosed with the early stages of Alzheimer's Disease.

In a letter sent by his spokesman Howard Bragman, Lawrence confirmed the diagnosis, saying that he felt he needed to speak out in light of recent rumors and media inquiries.

"I'm living my life, going out in public and trying to spend as much time as possible with my family and friends while I am still able to engage and enjoy," he wrote.

Lawrence said he doesn't want pity or sympathy in response to his diagnosis.

"I have lived and am living a wonderful, joyous life filled with love, support and amazing moments," he said.

The 83-year-old crooner is known for solo hits including the ballad "Go Away Little Girl" and as one half of the 1960s pop duo Steve and Eydie alongside his wife, Eydie Gorme (gor-MAY'), who died in 2013.

Lawrence and Gorme

helped keep alive the legacy of the American Broadway songbook at a time when rock became dominant. They were known for their frequent appearances on TV variety and talk shows, in night clubs, and on the stages of Las Vegas.

People magazine first reported the news of Lawrence's diagnosis.

## Boyfriend confesses being attracted to woman's brother

EAR ABBY: I am a gay male. My sister, "Cate," is in what appears outwardly to be a committed relationship, but I know for a fact it isn't.

Her boyfriend, "Darren," invited me out for coffee a few days ago, and while he was discussing some of their relationship troubles, he told me he isn't sure that he's straight. He then proceeded to say he could easily see himself dating me!

I don't know what to do. I want to tell Cate, but I don't want to wreck her relationship. The other problem is, I also feel attracted to Darren, but it's not my place to pursue him. Any advice would be helpful.

IN A BIND IN NEW YORK

**DEAR IN A BIND: Your sister's relationship with Darren** was "wrecked" the minute he told you that he isn't certain he's heterosexual and that he has his eye on you. If you and Darren were to become involved, it would likely devastate Cate, and I don't recommend it. Talk to Darren and tell him it's time to come clean with Cate. Then, if he doesn't, a loyal sibling should tell his sister before she wastes any more time on this boyfriend.

**DEAR ABBY:** I supervise someone I'll call "Kevin." He is lazy, and his work is so sloppy he should have been fired long ago. I and many supervisors before me have tried to no avail to motivate him, but we work in government, and he knows how

to game the system. Our unit's reputation has suffered because of Kevin. For reasons beyond my control, we are stuck working together.

I supervise another person who is retiring soon, and I would like to help plan his retirement party. Kevin is also nearing retirement age. When Kevin finally leaves, am I obligated to plan a retirement party for him? He has never lifted a finger for anybody, and he sure doesn't deserve a party honoring the fact that he sat in a chair for 30 years. Or should I not help plan either party?

STUCK SUPERVISOR

DEAR STUCK: Unless party-planning is part of your job designation, you are not obligated to arrange one for Kevin if you prefer not to, considering what a problem he has been for your unit. A party later celebrating the welcoming of "new staff" would probably go over better.

**DEAR ABBY:** I've been invited to go away with my son's family, and I don't want to do it. I have done it before, and it never goes well because of my son's mouth. I think he may have an anger issue, but if I say anything to him about it, he gets angry. I can't tolerate his language, and he says he can't change.

I want to be with my grandchildren, but his mouth and his attitude make me timid and uncomfortable, and I end up wishing I were home. I told him I was sorry I couldn't go and why. He says his family is happy, and I should just let it roll off, but I feel

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



I have a right not to be subjected to a week of constant cursing. It feels abusive. Am I wrong?

WISHING IT WERE DIFFERENT

DEAR WISHING: If the bad language is directed at another person, it IS abusive and disrespectful. If it is used as an adjective, it is "merely" grating and unpleasant. A vacation is supposed to be a time to relax and enjoy oneself. Because you feel your son's language is so bad it would prevent you from doing that, you should not subject yourself to it.

Good advice for everyone - teens to seniors - is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

**22** THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2019 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## **Pastimes**

## Calvin and Hobbes



## **Garfield**<sub>®</sub>

By Jim Davis









## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex

#### By Glenn McCoy







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For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch-STUMPED? tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kat Dennings, 33; Chris Evans, 38; Tim Allen, 66; Stellan Skarsgard, 68.

Happy Birthday: Learn as you go. Don't feel you have to rush if you aren't ready or sure which way to turn. Question what others do or say. How you react will determine the type of response you receive. Observation is your best option, and going directly to the person in charge will help you eliminate being misinformed. Look out for your best interests. Your numbers are 5, 13, 24, 36, 38, 42, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take good care of your needs. Proper diet, fitness and lifestyle changes will help you overcome any of the emotional issues that have been causing you stress and holding you back. A positive opportunity is heading your way. 🛇 🔾 🔾

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Change what you don't like, and keep moving. It's up to you to do the legwork if you want to make progress. Trust in what you know and what you can do. Share your feelings, and

improve important relationships. GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't let change unnerve you. Size up whether it's good for you, and make a choice to participate or to walk away. When in doubt, ask a trusted friend to give you good advice. Romance is encouraged. OOO

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Waiting for someone else to go first will not help you get ahead. Let your imagination lead the way

and your creativity guide you down a path that will bring about positive change in your life and in your relationships.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A change at home may not be welcome, but if you are patient and focus on personal growth, it will turn in your favor. Spend time with those who get you and support what you are trying to

achieve. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't join in if someone is trying to tempt you to be indulgent. Stick to those who are reliable

and productive; it will help you achieve something that will change your life. Don't let poor influences lead you astray. ••••

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take a break from your daily from your daily routine, and venture down a path that encourages you to explore possibilities. Refuse to let anyone bring you down or cause you grief. Let go of the past, and embrace the future.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Listen to what's being said, and evaluate how it pertains to you. A change of attitude or feelings will encourage you to make a move or adjust your beliefs or plans to fit your needs. Fol-

low your heart. **200** SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be honest about what you want. Re-

fuse to be enticed by what someone else is doing. Keep your life simple and your relationships honest. Make changes that are geared toward saving money and improving your health. OOO

EUGENIA

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Make a change at home or at work that will encourage a better quality of life. Speak up about your likes and dislikes, and address issues that will bring you in sync with the people who can influence your future. OOOO

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): If you want to make a personal change, do so, but not because someone is trying to sell you something or isn't happy with you. Change begins within and should be based on what you

want and are prepared to do. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Plan to get out and participate in events and projects you believe in. You can make a difference

if you devote time to improving your community, your relationships with others or the life path you want to pursue. 🏖 😂 😂

Birthday Baby: You are intuitive, secretive and thoughtful. You are engaging and intelligent.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

Conceptis Sudoku

3 8 a 3 6 9 8 6 2

5 Difficulty Level \*\* Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday

to Saturday.

By Dave Green

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#### WONDERWORD OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY; All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

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The NEW Volume 56 can be purchased on ine at www.WenderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2019 23

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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Kalayaan, Inc. is seeking applications for Food Service Supervisor positions.

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Train and supervise workers in food preparation, and in service, sanitation, and safety procedures. Supervise and participate in kitchen and dining area cleaning activities. Estimate ingredients and supplies required to prepare a recipe. Resolve customer complaints regarding food service. Control inventories of food, equipment, and smallware and report shortages to designated personnel. Purchase or requisition supplies and equipment needed to ensure quality and timely delivery of services.

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- . Able to work on an early morning shift.

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Seeking professional experienced as a masseuse/massage therapist. Proficient in a variety of modalities including Aromatherapy, Swedish and Deep Tissue Techniques.

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Can perform beauty procedures such as eyebrow waxing, make-up application etc. Must have experience in relevant field. Should be well Groomed, Attractive Personality, Confident, efficiently can handle various types of clients.

Dynamic and energetic individuals interested in being part of Saipan's premiere beauty salon are encouraged to submit a current resume via email to saltandbarber@gmail.com

Salt and Barber is an EOAA Employer and Service Provider

WHATZIT Solution: Old school tie

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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a complete 5-day run of liner ads, for as low as \$15 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

#### **ADS**

3-Liner \$155-Liner \$24

## **ADVERTISING DEADLINE**

#### **Classified Ads**

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

## **CANCELLATION**

#### **Classified Ads**

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

#### REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

#### CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

#### **ADVERTISING POLICY**

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



www.facebook.com/dingbatsgam

Find today's solution in classified section



## Much at stake in last finals trip to Oracle Arena

TORONTO NBA Finals are making one last trip to Oracle Arena.

For the Toronto Raptors, it's a second shot at a first championship.

For the Golden State Warriors, it'll be a night to play for a fallen teammate and the fans they're leaving behind.

Game 6 is Thursday and the stakes could hardly be higher.

"We owe our fans one more game in Oracle," Warriors guard Klay Thompson said.

There have been so many already during Golden State's stretch of five straight trips to the NBA Finals, the secondlongest run in NBA history. But few had all the drama and emotion that will fill the Oakland air Thursday.

Toronto will bring a 3-2 lead into the building and try again to win a title that seemed so close in Game 5. The Raptors had a six-point lead with less than 3 minutes remaining Monday, poised to put an end to a Golden era in the NBA. Then Thompson and Stephen Curry rallied Golden State to a 106-105 victory, fueled by three straight 3-pointers.

Now the Raptors have to do things a little bit better, for a little bit longer.

"Come out and do the same thing. Just be mentally focused, try to limit our mistakes, and be the aggressor," Kawhi Leonard said. "Just play hard 48 minutes and see what happens."



Golden State Warriors forward Andre Iguodala (9) drives between Toronto Raptors forwards Kawhi Leonard (2) and Norman Powell (24) during the first half action in Game 5 of the NBA Finals in Toronto, Monday, June 10, 2019.

It's the last game in the arena not long after he did before the Warriors move to the new Chase Center in San Francisco, and the first one for Golden State with the knowledge that Kevin Durant won't be back this season. The two-time defending champions began the series hoping he could return from a strained right calf, but

he was lost in the second quarter of Game 5 with an Achilles tendon injury.

Center Kevon Looney also went out again, so the Warriors are nowhere near full strength as they make their final stand.

They can't worry about

Column: How KD's injury could change NBA for years

that now.

"It's not like we're the only team battling," Draymond Green said. "They're battling as

well. Everybody is facing fatigue at this point. No one cares who is tired or if you're facing a little fatigue. You've got to do what you came here to do anyway."

The Warriors are trying to become the 12th team to come back from a 3-1 deficit and only the second in the NBA Finals, after the Cleveland Cavaliers did it against them in 2016. Being back home Thursday is a luxury but certainly no guarantee, not after Toronto won Games 3 and 4 at Oracle

Arena to go along with its victory there in the regular season.

So the Raptors won't be rattled by having to go back there, even though they nearly avoided it.

"We came into this series expecting a long series and we put ourselves in a good position," guard Fred VanVleet said.

TORONTO-Rarely is an NBA Finals victory as subdued as Golden State's Game 5 win over Toronto on Monday.

But rarely does an NBA Finals game see a devastating injury to one of the game's stars.

Now what for Kevin Durant? His latest injury sustained in Golden State's win - and the concern is that it's an Achilles tear—could have a ripple effect not only on Durant and Golden State's prospects of winning a third consecutive NBA championship, but on Durant's future, free agency this summer, the 2019-20 season and the NBA record books.

The implications are far, wide and deep.

The extent of the injury won't be known until the Warriors get results of an MRI scheduled for Tuesday afternoon. But there is a clinical exam called the Simmonds-Thompson test which doctors and athletic trainers use to test for an Achilles rupture, according to certified athletic trainer Jeff Stotts.

While the Warriors wait for the MRI, they fear the worst. Late Monday night, emotional Warriors general manager Bob Myers had trouble getting words out in defense of Durant

and his desire to get back on the court following the strained calf he sustained on May 8 against Houston in the Western Conference semifinals.

#### **Durant's immediate** future

If those worst fears are confirmed, Durant will likely miss next season. Achilles ruptures are not all that common, at least compared to other serious injuries such as torn anterior cruciate ligaments in the knee. Though there have been some serious Achilles injuries across the NBA in recent years, including ones sustained by big-name players: Kobe Bryant, Brandon Jennings, Rudy Gay, DeMarcus Cousins, John Wall and now Durant.

The NBA is looking closely at Achilles injuries because of the potential impact they have on a player's long-term career. The league doesn't have a large sample size to study, but it does know the structure of the tendon changes over time and could become more susceptible to a rupture. The NBA is trying to figure out why it happens to some players and not others.

Regardless, it's an injury that likely sidelines a player for a season and can have an impact on that player's future. Cousins, who sustained his Achilles rupture in 2018, missed the equivalent of a full season—half of one season, half of another-and then sustained a quadriceps injury 32 games after returning.

The rehab is long and grueling, and there is concern the player will never be the same.

#### The here and now for Warriors

The Warriors were down 3-1 in before Durant's brief return in forced to a Game 7. Game 5. In his short time on the court – 11 minutes, 57 seconds - Durant scored 11 points and made all three 3-pointers he attempted. He helped Golden State to an early 39-34 lead at the time of his injury, and the Warriors extended their advantage to 52-39.

Durant helped Golden State win, and you can argue that if he hadn't played in Game 5, the series would be over and the Raptors would be celebrating their first NBA championship. His early scoring was necessary for the Warriors to force a sixth game.

Without Durant for the rest of the series, the Warriors have to deal with the emotions of losing a star while combatting the relentless Raptors. Golden State had a 77-63 lead in the third quarter, lost the lead and needed a 9-2 run to close out the game and win by a point.

Coming back from a 3-1 deficit is difficult under any circumstances. Doing it under these circumstances seems particularly arduous. Teams with a 3-1 lead in the NBA Finals are 33-1 and just three the Finals against the Raptors times have those series been

There are also potential repercussions for the Warriors' medical and athletic training staff who cleared Durant to play. Don't forget, Chelsea Lane, a highly-respected performance therapist, left the Warriors after last season for a similar job with the Atlanta Hawks. Myers said no one is to blame, but should Durant have played?

## Free agency

This summer will change the

NBA landscape for at least the next few seasons. Durant can be a free agent along with other stars: Toronto's Kawhi Leonard, Golden State's Klay Philadelphia's Thompson, Jimmy Butler and Tobias Harris, Boston's Kyrie Irving, Charlotte's Kemba Walker and Milwaukee's Khris Middleton.

Who will play where and with whom has been a focal point of this NBA season. What Durant decides to do will impact what other players decide to do. His injury already alters the 2019-20 season.

Durant has options. He doesn't have to become a free agent. He can choose to opt in to the final year of his contract with the Warriors at \$31.5 million and become a free agent in the summer of 2020. How Durant feels about how Golden State handled his injury may play a role, too.

If he decides to become a free agent, he will have suitors who will offer him a max contract despite the fact he will likely miss next season if it's a ruptured Achilles. That possibly jeopardizes the idea of Durant teaming up with another star – perhaps Irving with one of the New York teams.

If free agency wasn't going to be hectic enough, this throws another unknown into the equation.

#### **Record books**

Durant will turn 31 on Sept. 29—still in the prime of his career age-wise. But he is on the verge of losing a season of his prime to injury. Durant is one of the NBA's all-time great scorers, a versatile 6-11 forward who can get his shot anytime, at any spot on the court.

He is No. 31 on the league's all-time scoring list and was—before the injury—two seasons away from moving close to the top 15. At 29, he became the second-voungest player to reach 20,000 career points. There are few players who have ever scored with skill and grace like Durant.

With a long and healthy career, Durant has a chance at passing Hall of Famer Kareem Abdul-Jabbar for No. 1 on the NBA's all-time scoring list.

While passing Abdul-Jabbar is difficult for any player—LeBron James has a chance, too-Durant's prospects take a hit if his injury is as serious as it's feared to be.

## Woods trending in right direction at Pebble Beach

V.S. OPEN PEBBLE BEACH,
Calif. — Tiger
Woods chose not to
play a practice round
Tuesday at Pebble
Beach, saying he
wanted to be ener-

gized and ready to go come Thursday for Round 1 of the U.S. Open.

He called it a "rest day," but the large pool of sweat showing through his dark blue Nike polo in the early afternoon suggested otherwise.

Woods clearly hit the range hard and spent a lot of time on the practice green working with putting consultant Matt Killen, with whom Woods also spent time ahead of the Players Championship in March.

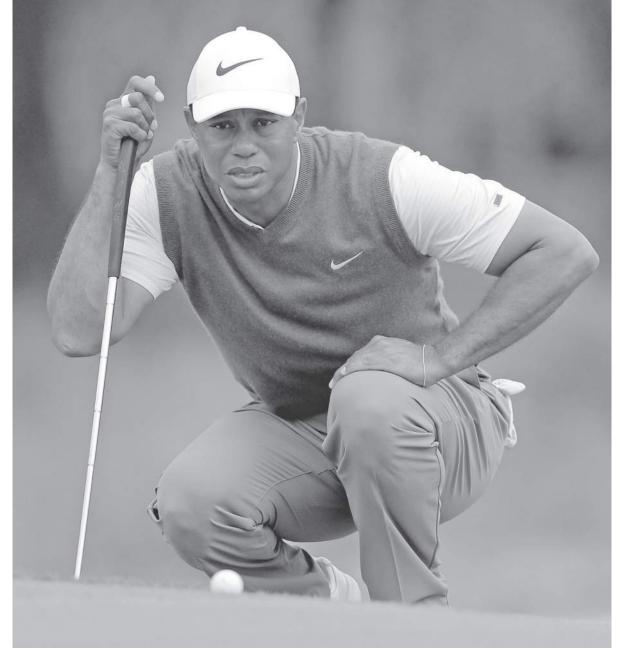
He entered the interview room around 4:15 p.m. ET and spent plenty of time reflecting on his recordsetting 15-shot win here in 2000. But the more pressing topic is what happens this week, nearly two decades later and two months removed from another timeless major victory.

"I feel like I'm trending in the right direction," Woods said. "I need one more day of prep."

Woods will play a practice round Wednesday at Pebble Beach for a final tune-up ahead of his opening-round 5:09 p.m. tee time with Jordan Spieth and Justin Rose. He wants to get a better feel for the setup, see how the USGA is actually going to let this thing play out come game time.

Asked how much different his strategy will be in 2019 than it was in 2000, Woods said not much has changed there. He doesn't have the raw power he had back then but the golf ball goes further now, so his distances are actually pretty similar. It all evens out.

"Looking forward to it," Woods said. "It's been a while since we played the U.S. Open here. There's nothing like playing a U.S. Open



setup here in Pebble Beach. The golf course is not overly long. It's not big in that regard but, man, it's tricky. The greens are slanted, very small targets. And if they ever firm up, then we have a totally different ballgame."

Woods wasn't himself at his last major outing, the PGA Championship at Bethpage Black, where he missed a major cut for just the ninth time in his career and never had it from the get-go. He's alluded to an illness that week and admitted Tuesday he was in "rough shape." That's not the case so far this week, and Woods said he's up for the challenge

at a U.S. Open or anywhere if he's good to go physically.

"If I feel good, then I feel like I can play any venue," Woods said. "It's just that when I'm stiff and not moving as well, it becomes a little bit more difficult. ... How do you put the ball in the correct position is the

Tiger Woods lines up a putt on the second green during the second round of the PGA Championship golf tournament, Friday, May 17, 2019, at Bethpage Black in Farmingdale, N.Y.

key (this week). And these greens, we don't face greens like this, this small and steep. So it puts a premium on iron play."

That means Woods must really like his chances this week considering he's the best irons player in the game. He had them dialed in at the Masters and again two weeks ago during a T-9 finish at the Memorial Tournament.

## Day hires caddie Williams in bid to unlock potential

Jason Day has won a major, reached No. 1 in the world and recorded 12 PGA Tour wins already in his career.

That's not nearly enough to satisfy Day, who believes he has "severely underachieved" and needed to make a change if he wants to achieve his goal of winning all four majors.

So after months of contemplating a caddie change, Day lured Steve Williams out of retirement to carry his bag, starting with the U.S. Open this week.

"I think I've underachieved up until now," Day said Tuesday. "I feel like I've got a game that when it's on, I can win most tournaments. And the big thing for me is to go ahead and believe that and have trust in my abilities that I can do that. And now that I have Steve on the bag, I think hopefully that will flourish and I can make winning more of a habit."

Williams was the caddie for 13 of Tiger Woods' 15 major championships, helped Adam Scott win the Masters in 2013, and has also worked for Greg Norman and Ian Baker-Finch during a long career.

## **PEBBLE BEACH, Calif.** (AP) — Brooks Koepka should already have enough motivation for this U.S. Open.

At stake is a shot at a U.S. Open record not touched in 104 years — three straight victories by Willie Anderson.

On his mind was a Fox Sports preview that Koepka interpreted as another example of him not getting the credit he deserves, another chip on his broad shoulder, another chance to prove everyone wrong.

"A bunch of people on Twitter I think tagged me in it—in the promo—and I guess they were amazed that I wasn't in it," Koepka said Tuesday. "I just clicked on the link and watched it. Just kind of shocked. They've had over a year to kind of put it out. So I don't know. Somebody probably got fired over it — or should."

Was it a slight?

Fox had four U.S. Open promos, three of which included Koepka, one of them devoted entirely to Koepka

## Koepka facing long odds for another US Open title

and the history he can match. The other was entirely about Tiger Woods, the Masters champion who returns to the scene of his record 15-shot victory at Pebble Beach.

Koepka wasn't clear about what shocked him. If there is any cause for a beef in the Woods promo, it was talk about passing the torch to the next generation and showing images of Rory McIlroy, Dustin Johnson and Jordan Spieth — but no Koepka.

The good news for Koepka? He says it's getting harder for him to hide when he's out in public. He can feel eyes on him when he walks into a restaurant, and he's not sure why all the fuss.

"I just view myself as a regular guy, just like everybody else," he said. "And I just happen to be really good at golf. And that's it."

It was hard not to notice, maybe even appreciate, the

interview room. Only six people attended his pre-tournament press conference last year at Shinnecock Hills when he was the defending champion, although it was late on a Wednesday afternoon. This time, it was hard to find six empty seats.

Koepka has everyone's attention at Pebble Beach. He has won four of his last eight majors, a stretch of success only Woods, Jack Nicklaus and Ben Hogan have equaled in the era of four majors.

Even so, it's another name that enters the equation this week.

Koepka recalls seeing Anderson's name on a building in Scotland last summer, right after he won his second U.S. Open. By then, Koepka was vaguely aware that the Scottish-born Anderson had won the U.S. Open in 1903, 1904 and 1905.

"I just try to put that in the back of my mind," Koepka said

in a tone nearly as flat as his heart rate. "It's just another golf tournament. I have to go out and do what I'm supposed to do. It's going to be a tough test this week—we all know that."

Four players have had a shot at three straight U.S. Open titles since then. None came particularly close. The most recent opportunity fell to Curtis Strange in 1990 at Medinah, where a 68 brought him within two shots of the lead until he faded to a 75 in the final round and tied for 21st.

"He says it's another day, another round, another tournament," Strange said. "It's not. It's the U.S. Open. He's going for three in a row. But of anyone I've seen who walks the walk, it's Brooks Koepka. He goes about his business in a professional way every day."

Koepka realizes history is against him, and not just because it has been 104 years since anyone won a third straight U.S. Open.

The last player to win any major three straight times was Peter Thomson in the British Open (1954-56). Take even a stock PGA Tour event, and it has been eight years since Steve Stricker was the last to win the same event three years in a row at the John Deere Classic.

Woods won at least three straight years six times in five tournaments (he had two stretches of three straight wins at Firestone).

"I'm not thinking about it," Koepka said. "I know the odds are stacked up probably even more against me now to go three in a row than to back it up. It's hard to win the same event three times in a row."

Spieth got a close look at Koepka last month at Bethpage Black when they played in the final group of the third round, when Koepka maintained his seven-shot lead with an even-par 70 as the course began to toughen.

Spieth was on a roll like this a few years ago. He won the Masters and U.S. Open was close in the other two majors of 2015. He lost a five-shot lead on the back nine at the Masters the following year. He won the British Open in 2017.

"He may be stoic on the golf course. I think that's his level of confidence that he has and his level of focus that he's been on," Spieth said. "That mentality on the golf course seems to be coming from the confidence in every swing that he's making. I've been in similar situations. And it's really fun. And it's also sometimes even more difficult to stay as focused as he's been able to do."

Spieth doesn't like to hear phrases like Koepka being on a run because it speaks more of good fortune than simply good golf.

"This isn't just a run. This is who he is," Spieth said. "And he's going to be a force to be reckoned with for decades. So get used to it."

## Yankees, Mets split day-night doubleheader



(AP)—Pete Alonso hit a

three-run homer in the first inning off an ineffective James Paxton, J.D. Davis and Carlos Gomez also went deep, and the Mets won the second game of a day-night doubleheader, 10-4, to earn a split with the Yankees.

Jason Vargas (3-3) wasn't sharp early but got stronger as the night wore on, helping the Mets to only the fifth win in their last 23 road games.

Luke Voit hit a three-run homer off Zack Wheeler (5-4) in a five-run fourth inning as the Yankees overcame a threerun deficit to win the opener 12-5. After falling out of the AL East lead for the first time since the morning of May 19, the Yankees (41-25) moved back into a tie with Tampa Bay atop the division.

The Mets (33-34) have not been over .500 since May 3.

Paxton (3-3) remained winless in three starts since a trip to the injured list caused by left knee inflammation. He gave up a season-high six runs, seven hits and two walks in 2 2/3 innings, departing after RBI singles from Michael Conforto, Wilson Ramos and Adeiny Hechavarria.

In the opener, Masahiro Tanaka (4-5) gave up a threerun homer to Jeff McNeil that put the Mets ahead 4-1 in the third, but rebounded to win for the first time in a month, 12-5.

Gio Urshela homered, had four RBIs and was a triple short of the cycle for the Yankees. Gary Sanchez hit his 20th homer and had three RBIs.

#### Rangers 9, Red Sox 5

In Boston, Hunter Pence hit a stand-up, inside-the-park home run and the Texas Rangers beat the Red Sox after both managers were ejected.

Ariel Jurado (4-2) struck out six while pitching six innings of three-run ball, and Pence. Asdrubal Cabrera and Ronald Guzman each had two



RBIs for the Rangers. Texas has won four of five, including Monday night's extra-innings victory at Fenway Park.

Bogaerts Xander and Mookie Betts homered for Boston, which has lost three straight and five of six.

#### Cardinals 7, Marlins 1

In Miami, rookie Dakota Hudson allowed one run in a career-high seven innings, and St. Louis handed Miami its sixth consecutive defeat.

Cardinals catcher Yadier Molina returned after missing 11 games because of a strained right thumb and went 2 for 5 with a single and double.

Marcell Ozuna punctuated the victory with a ninth-inning homer, his 18th.

#### Phillies 7, Diamondbacks 4

In Philadelphia, Scott Kingery

hit a three-run homer, Jake Arrieta threw six effective innings and the Phillies beat Arizona.

Arrieta (6-5) allowed three runs and six hits for his second win in eight starts. Hector Neris pitched the ninth for his 14th save in 14 tries.

Ketel Marte went deep for the Diamondbacks and the teams combined for only two homers a night after setting a major league record with 13.

#### Orioles 4, Blue Jays 2

In Baltimore, rookie John Means tied a season-high with seven strikeouts and the Orioles took the series opener from Toronto.

Means (6-4) allowed one run on four hits with three walks over five innings and lowered his ERA to 2.60.

Baltimore reliever Shawn Armstrong threw a pair of scoreless innings with three strikeouts.

Anthony Santander had three hits and an RBI-double for Baltimore, which can win consecutive games for the first time since May 4-6 and a series for the first time since April 22-24.

#### Athletics 4, Rays 3

In St. Petersburgh, Mike Fiers pitched six effective innings, Matt Olson and Khris Davis hit consecutive homers, and the Oakland Athletics beat the Tampa Bay Rays.

Fiers (6-3) allowed two runs and three hits, and is 4-0 in seven starts beginning with his no-hitter against Cincinnati on May 7.

Liam Hendriks, Lou Trivino and Blake Treinen, who gave up Willy Adames' RBI single in the ninth en route to his 15th save, combined to strike out six

and complete the four-hitter.

#### Indians 2, Reds 1, 10 innings

In Cleveland, rookie Oscar Mercado hit a bases-loaded single with one out in the 10th inning, leading the Indians past Cincinnati in the intrastate matchup.

Mercado lined a 1-2 pitch from Raisel Iglesias (1-6) to left field and was mobbed by his teammates after rounding first base.

Mike Freeman drew a oneout walk and took third on a single by Leonys Martin. Francisco Lindor was intentionally walked, setting the stage for Mercado.

#### Astros 10, Brewers 8

In Houston, rookie Yordan Alvarez hit one of Houston's four home runs to become the first player in franchise history to homer in his first two major league games.

Yuli Gurriel, Robinson Chirinos and Tyler White also homered for the Astros, who won for the fourth time in five games.

### Royals 3, Tigers 2

In Kansas City, Jorge Soler had the tying RBI double in the eighth inning and Cheslor Cuthbert followed with the go-ahead run-scoring single to lead the Royals over Detroit.

Adalberto Mondesi started the rally with a double with one out and scored on Soler's hit off Victor Alcantara (2-1). Terrance Gore ran for Soler and stole third. He then scored on Cuthbert's single between three fielders in right field to put the Royals ahead.

New York Yankees first baseman Kendrys Morales can't field the throw allowing New York Mets' Todd Frazier to reach first base during the fourth inning in the first baseball game of a doubleheader, Tuesday, June 11, 2019, in New York.

#### Twins 6, Mariners 5

In Minneapolis, Jorge Polanco scored the tying run on a wild pitch and Marwin Gonzalez hit the go-ahead RBI single during Minnesota's three-run rally in the eighth inning.

Polanco reached base all four times he batted. He tried for a hustle double on each of his three hits, beating the tag at second base twice. That included the eighth against reliever Brandon Brennan (2-5).

#### White Sox 7, Nationals 5

In Chicago, Welington Castillo hit a grand slam and top rookie Eloy Jimenez homered at home for the first time, powering the White Sox past the Nationals.

Castillo got his second career slam, with the other coming June 14, 2017, in the same ballpark when he played for the Baltimore Orioles.

#### Rockies 10, Cubs 3

In Denver, rookie Peter Lambert went five strong innings and baffled Chicago for a second time in five days as Colorado won its 10th straight at home.

Lambert (2-0) allowed one run and three hits in his Coors Field debut.

Daniel Murphy led the Rockies offense with three hits, including a two-run double in the first. Charlie Blackmon added a three-run homer as part of a five-run sixth to break open the game.

#### **Braves 7, Pirates 5,** 8 innings

In Atlanta, Brian McCann hit one of four Atlanta homers in the second inning and took Pirates starter Chris Archer deep again with a tiebreaking, three-run shot in the sixth to lead the Braves.

The Braves, tied for first in the NL East, have won five straight. The game was called following a 1-hour, 48-minute rain delay after the eighth inning.

## Giants 6, Padres 5

In San Francisco, Evan Longoria hit a go-ahead, two-run double in the seventh inning and made a stellar defensive play in the ninth as the Giants rallied past San Diego.

Joe Panik singled twice and Pablo Sandoval added a sacrifice fly for the Giants. Steven Duggar hit a home run, his first since mid-April.

## Rams, Goff see no urgency for new contract as offseason ends



plan to do much

during the Los Angeles Rams' six-week summer break before training camp begins.

When he isn't working out, he'll probably be playing video games and simultaneously bonding with his teammates, including new center Brian Allen.

"We play Fortnite together," Goff said with a grin. "We'll play a little Fortnite, talk about protections on the mics."

Goff insists he won't spend any of this time off worrying

**THOUSAND** about his next contract — not OAKS, Calif. even after Carson Wentz got (AP) — Jared paid by the Philadelphia Eagles. million deal through 2024.

doesn't "You definitely think about Given the quarterbacks" it," Goff said Tuesday after the Rams' final offseason practice. "But at the same time, I know that none of that is even possible without playing on the field, and being available on the field. I'll just continue to do what I've been doing the last few years, and hopefully it will take care of itself."

> Goff was the first choice in the 2016 draft, while Wentz was the No. 2 pick. But while Goff is heading into the fourth season of his rookie contract

this fall with no extension yet, Wentz is all set with a \$128

many parallels—they even share the same agent, Ryan Tollner—the Eagles' surprising decision amplified the spotlight on the Rams' negotiations with Goff.

## Saints, Jordan agree on 3-year extension

In Louisiana, Saints defensive end Cameron Jordan, who has been New Orleans' sack leader in six of the past seven seasons, has agreed to a three-year extension worth

up to \$55.5 million, a person familiar with the situation said Tuesday.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity on Tuesday because the extension, which follows the two years left on his current contract and runs through 2023, is not expected to be signed until Wednesday morning and has not been announced.

Jordan said an extension had not been signed, but hinted that a verbal agreement was in place and stressed that he intends to play in New Orleans as long as possible.

# No mercy: US hammers Thailand

REIMS, France (AP)— Thailand was never a real threat to the U.S. national team. Even so, the three-time Women's World Cup champions had no desire to go easy on a lesser opponent in their opening game.

Goals matter in the group stage.

And statements matter in soccer's biggest tournament.

"Obviously we have the utmost respect for everyone we play, but it's the World Cup," said captain Megan Rapinoe.

Alex Morgan tied the tournament record with five goals and the United States opened with a historic 13-0 rout of Thailand on Tuesday night. Samantha Mewis and Rose Lavelle each added a pair of goals for the United States, which broke the record for goals and margin of victory in a World Cup game.

Rapinoe, Lindsey Horan,



MP

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utes of play, courtesy of Neng Aldrich's shot in the 10th minute. Ivan Claire Gozon registered the two other goals for Matansa, as she hit her target in the 41st and 42nd minute.

In other results last weekend, TanHoldings and Matansa-2 engaged in a scoreless draw, while Kanoa got a free win over Topnotch (forfeiture).

Meanwhile, there will be no games in the masters this weekend and Sunday's matches will be rescheduled to June 30. Action will resume on June 23 with TanHoldings and Matansa-2 playing first in the triple-header at 4pm. Then in the second game at 5:15pm, Matansa-1 will meet Topnotch, while in the last match at 6:30pm, MP United will duel Kanoa

**CNMI** From Page 28

play with similar 4-1 records to march into the semifinal round. Kim swept her first four games before losing to Palau's Galyah Mikel yesterday, 6-4, 3-6, 4-10, but still topped Group A, as she prevailed in the tiebreak against Elliot (head-to-head). Elliot, who fell to Kim last Monday, won her last pool assignment play after whipping Guam's Randiann Atento, 6-0, 6-0.

With Kim and Elliot taking the No. 1 and 2 spots, they avoided an early semis collision, as the former will be pitted against No. 3 seed Leila Etscheit of FSM and the latter will face Guam's Alicia Addison. Etscheit had a 3-1 record in Group B, while Addison was unbeaten in four games.

In the boys U14 singles, the CNMI will also have two entries in the semis in Kang and David Kwon.

The No. 2 seeded Kang ruled Group B. getting a 2-0 record after downing FSM's Theadore Ned, 6-0, 6-3. Kang will square off against No. 4 Jacob Jackson in the semifinals, as the Guam player finished first in Group C with a 3-0 mark. Kwon also had a perfect record (3-0) in the pool play in Group D to earn a semis date against No. 1 Jones George of FSM. Kwon is the only unseeded player in the



ROSELYN B. MONROYO The CNMI Anthony Gregoire, left, and David Kwon celebrate after scoring a point in their boys U14 doubles game against the Federated States of Micronesia's Jones George and Theodore Ned in the 2019 North Pacific Regional Championships vesterday at the American Memorial Park.

Final Four, while George lived up to high expectations in the elimination round, as he dominated the CNMI's Eubin Park, 6-1, 6-0, and Guam's Arian Sachdev, 6-0, 6-0.

Meanwhile, in the U12 age group team event, Guam Girls 1 is still unbeaten in four games, while FSM 1 and CNMI Girls 1 are not far behind with identical 3-1 marks.

Guam Girls 3 (2-2), CNMI Girls 2 (1-2), FSM Girls 2 (0-3), and Guam Girls 2 (0-4) complete the standings in the round-robin competition that has two playing days left before the winner is decided.

In the boys division, Guam 1 is ahead with its 3-0 card, followed by FSM 1 (2-1), CNMI 1 (2-1). Guam 2 (1-2). FSM 2 (1-2), and CNMI 2 (0-3).

Thailand goalkeeper Waraporn Boonsing, left, reaches up to take the ball from teammate Kanjanaporn Saenkhun and United States' Carli Lloyd, right, during the Women's World Cup Group F soccer match at the Stade Auguste-Delaune in Reims, France, Tuesday, June 11, 2019.

Mallory Pugh and Carli Lloyd also scored. The previous record margin was Germany's 11-0 victory over Argentina

Morgan tied Michelle Akers' record for World Cup goals, set in the quarterfinals against Taiwan in 1991. The team's seven different scorers also set a tournament record.

Lloyd, 36, became the oldest American woman to score at a World Cup and joined Germany's Birgit Prinz as the elicit the same questions.

only players to score in five straight World Cup games.

The United States faced criticism over its relentless attack. The Americans led 3-0 at the break and then broke the match open in

the players celebrating goal after goal.

The Americans meant no disrespect, said Morgan, but they simply wanted to position themselves for a run at a second consecutive title.

"We really just came into the game really wanting to showcase ourselves," Morgan said. "Every goal matters in this tournament and that's what we were working on."

Asked about the lopsided score, U.S. coach Jill Ellis wondered if a 10-0 victory in a men's World Cup would

"This is a world championship, so every team here has been fantastic to get to this point. And I think that to be respectful to opponents is to play hard against opponents, and as Alex said, the second half, with FRANCE 2019 it's a tournament where goal differential is im-

portant," Ellis said.

The two teams were the last to kick off in the group stage for the monthlong tournament. Host France opened the World Cup before a sellout crowd in Paris on Friday night with a 4-0 victory over South Korea.

Ranked No. 1 in the world, the Americans had dropped only one match in their previous 38, a loss to France in Le Havre in January. The team was 7-1-2 overall this year, with six straight wins going into the World Cup.

## Opinion: USWNT owes no apologies for celebrating blowout

**REIMS, France**— Take the treating it as such. pearl clutching and righteous indignation somewhere else. This is the World Cup, not a rec league tournament.

There are some who seem to think the U.S. women's 13-0 thrashing of Thailand on Tuesday night was piling on, that their celebrating of every goal was unseemly.

Tough.

You want the Americans to impose the slaughter rule or patronize their opponents by pretending they didn't just tack another goal onto the scoreline? Go join the 6-year-olds in the park. Maybe you'll get a participation trophy and an orange slice while you're at it.

This is high-level competition, and the Americans have no reason to apologize for

"You don't want to take your foot off the pedal because you want to respect the game and play through and play them as we would play anyone else," Kelley O'Hara said. "It is a tournament. Goal differential matters.

"At the end of the day, you can't feel bad for scoring as many goals as possible.'

Nor should they feel bad about celebrating them.

Some keyboard warriors accused the Americans of poor sportsmanship for continuing to celebrate as the score neared, and then went into, double digits. As if Mallory Pugh was supposed to pretend she wasn't ecstatic about scoring her first World Cup goal. As if Alex Morgan was supposed to ignore the

fact she'd just tied a record Michelle Akers set 28 years ago by scoring five goals.

As if the Americans pretending they hadn't just tagged Thailand with yet another goal would have made their opponents feel so much better.

As for the manner in which the Americans celebrated, let me know where the chart is for what is acceptable and when. The Thai players knew they were getting overrun. The exuberant U.S. celebrations were the least of their woes.

"We accept the score today," Thailand coach Nuengrutai Srathongvian said. "We haven't done enough. We accept that they are very strong and they were excellent all around. We accept our mistakes and we are going to improve."

### **ALBERTO'S**

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37, but was threatened in the fourth frame when Ivan Devero and Errol Peredo joined forces in bringing IT&E back into the game. Devero fired 9 of his 21 markers in the final period, while Peredo had 8 of his 18 in that canto. However, they were the only IT&E players to make more than 2 points in the pivotal fourth and their team failed to complete the rally to bid the tournament goodbye.

IT&E was paired against Alberto's in the first round of the playoffs, as the former finished No. 7 in the roundrobin regular season with a 2-5 record, while the latter was ranked second behind the unbeaten DC after taking a 5-2 slate.

Ferrer top-scored in Alberto's playoff win with his 20 markers, while Mangali and Jandoc also had double figures with 15 and 12, respectively.

In other results, Lakay bagged the first semis berth in Group B after outclassing 911 Bar & Grill, 64-55.

It was a come-from-behind win for the No. 5 seed Lakay, thanks to the combined 16 points of Ronald Bernardo, Richard Mendoza, and Jun Alegre in the fourth period. The trio outgunned the entire 911 Bar & Grill in the fourth frame, as only Bernard Montano and Perry Inos scored for the losing squad. Montano tallied 5 points in the final canto, which started with 911 Bar & Grill ahead, 46-44, while Inos added 4. 911 Bar & Grill also led at the end of the first two quarters, 17-14, 30-25, before losing the driver's seat in the fourth.

Mendoza delivered points in Lakay's upset over 911 Bar & Grill, while Bernardo contributed 16. Alegre had 9, with 8 of them coming in the second half. Inos recorded a game-high 28 points on a losing effort.

Meawhile, the first round of the playoffs continued last night with NMI Contractors scheduled to duel Loving Hands. NMI Contractors finished third in Group B with its 2-5 record, while Loving Hands was ranked No. 3 after posting a 5-2 mark.

Tomorrow, four more teams will start their playoff campaigns with Group A's DC battling the Hoops (2-5) in the 6pm match and No. 6 Marianas Variety (2-5) challenging No. 3 The Game (4-3). Then on Saturday, the pairings will be No. 8 Team Batang (0-7) and No. 1 Real Deal (7-0) at 5:30pm and Saipan Vegas (3-3) and Brabu (3-4) at 7pm.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Seeded CNMI players deliver



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

vive seeded CNMI players are in contention for the singles title in their respective divisions in the 2019 North Pacific Regional Championships.

Sean Lee and Hyejin Elliot, who are seeded No. 1 in the boys U16 and girls U14 singles events, respectively, No. 2

Sam Rvu. No. 4 Helen Kim. and No. 2 Daniel Kang all made it to the semifinal round after completing their pool play assignments yesterday at the American Memorial Park and Pacific Islands Club tennis courts.

Lee swept his pool play matches in Group A, earning a 4-0 record following a 6-0,

ROSELYN B. MONROYO The CNMI's David Kwon goes for a baseline return during his and Anthony Gregoire's boys U14 doubles game against the Federated States of Micronesia's Jones George and Theodore Ned in the 2019 North Pacific Regional Championships yesterday at the

6-1 victory over fellow CNMI player Isaac Heo. Lee's semis foe today is the unseeded Nolen Narruhn of the Federated States of

Micronesia, as the latter finished second in Group B with his 3-1 record.

In the other semis match in the boys U16 singles, Ryu will duel No. 4 Deavyn Etscheit. Ryu topped Group B with his 3-1 mark, winning in the tiebreak against Narruhn and Guam's Aidan Schembari. The Commonwealth player secured the first place finish in the group after crushing compatriot Cory Lee, 6-0, 6-0. Deavyn, on the other hand, earned a spot to the semifinals after stunning No. 3 seed and CNMI's Eugene Park, 6-4, 6-3. In the girls U14 singles,

Kim and Elliot finished pool

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## Alberto's takes first semis seat



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Alberto's Catering's Gerald Rivera, right, and Chris Lilles challenge the jumper of IT&E's Errol Peredo during their playoff game in the Civic Center caging in Susupe last Saturday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com REPORTER



Catering survived IT&E, 62-60, in the first round of the playoffs in the 2019 Civic Center Basketball League last Saturday in Susupe.

Alberto's

Elgene Mangali, Gerald Rivera, Frank Ferrer, and Jet Jandoc teamed up in the fourth quarter to thwart IT&E's comeback bid and hand Alberto's the first semis ticket in Group A. Mangali and Rivera scored 5 points each in the final canto with the former making three important free throws, while the latter knocked in a deuce and a triple. Ferrer also had a trey in the fourth period, while Jandoc contributed 2, as Alberto's hung on in the end after squandering a double-digit lead.

Alberto's was on top by 10 after the third period, 47-

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## MP United eases past Matansa-1

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com REPORTER

MP United Football Club cruised to an 8-3 victory over Matansa-1 in the masters division of the 2019 Dove Spring Women's Futsal League last Sunday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Laarni Zapanta starred in MP United's rout of Matansa-1 after scoring five goals. She delivered the winning team's first two goals after finding the back of the net in the seventh and 12th minute, while her last three

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MP United Football Club's Laarni Zapanta, right, seen here chasing the ball during an earlier game against TanHoldings Football Club, scored five goals in their 8-3 rout of Matansa-1 in the masters division of the 2019 Dove Spring Women's Futsal League last Sunday at the TSL Sports Complex.

were also scored in sucboard in the 43rd, 46th, and 50th minute.

Besides Zapanta's brace, MP United also drew a pair from Chiharu Sato

and one from Aimee cession, as she lit up the Quito Weiss in the first half to pull away early. Women's League Matansa made only one goal in the first 25 min-

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